"If you're an X-fan, this is a must-buy."
— Graphic Policy

UNCANNY X-MEN

ROSENBERG
GÓMEZ
VILLA
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WOLVERINE AND CYCLOPS

MARVEL

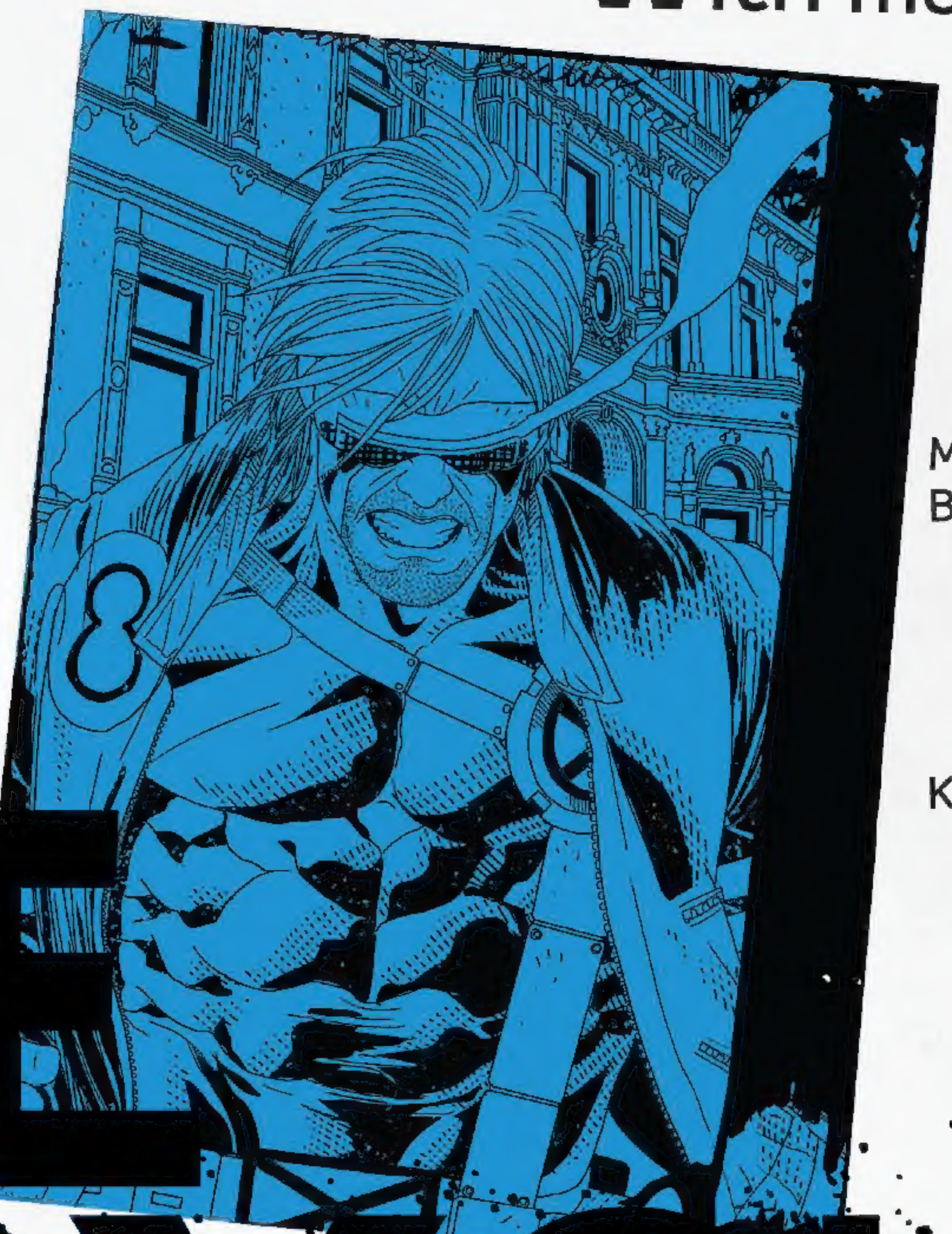
UNCANNY X-MEN:

WOLVERINE AND & CYCLOPS

They were born **mutants**...possessing powers of a genetic origin that made them outcasts of society. But one man — Professor Charles Xavier — brought them together to learn to use their unique gifts in the service of a world that hates and fears them... They are Children of the Atom...

UNCANNY X-MEN:

WOLVERINE AND & CYCLOPS



With most of their teammates presumed dead after a cataclysmic battle, Cyclops and Wolverine have banded together as the last X-Men with Magik, Mirage, Karma, Havok, Multiple Man, Chamber, Hope Summers and Banshee. Together they hunt down threats to mutantkind, including policing their own: Joseph, Magneto's younger clone, gathered former Brotherhood of Evil Mutants members Pyro, Avalanche, Toad, Random and Juggernaut to attack a U.S. Air Force base in Transia. The X-Men intervened and were ready to take Joseph into custody when Kwannon, a telekinetic ninja with tenuous ties to the X-Men, executed him. Before the X-Men could deal with their newest addition, Mirage suffered a massive psychic shock caused by the death of their former teammate Wolfsbane!

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17

We Have Always Been Part 1

"CHARLES XAVIER TAUGHT EVERYONE TO TAKE SOME COMFORT IN THE IDEA THAT WE FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE IN THE MOST TRYING OF TIMES. BUT THAT ASSUMES WE WILL LIKE WHAT WE FIND."

HARRY'S HIDEAWAY. SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.
YOU LOOK LIKE #$&%.
FEEL ABOUT THE SAME.
GET DRESSED. ILLYANA IS TAKING US TO THE SERVICE IN HALF AN HOUR.
I'M NOT GOING.
EVERYONE IS GOING. AND TAKE A SHOWER.
I DON'T MOURN THE SAME WAY YOU DO.
THIS ISN'T FOR YOU...

"YOU'RE PART OF A FAMILY, LOGAN. SHOW UP FOR THEM."
DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO OWN A SUIT, IF I'M BEING HONEST. WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
OFF A DEAD MAN.
I'M GONNA PRETEND THAT'S THE NORMAL "LOGAN SENSE OF HUMOR" AND MOVE ON. I GOT WHAT YOU ASKED ME FOR.
THIS IS RIGHT?
YEAH. IT'S THE OFFICIAL POLICE REPORT.
HOW'D YOU GET IT?
THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I DO.
THAT'S MY LINE.
LOGAN... THEY AREN'T GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO THEM.
I FIGURED...

"WHAT'S ONE MORE DEAD MUTANT?"
LOOK AT YOU! YOU CLEAN UP SO NICELY FOR A FUNERAL. IF I'D KNOWN HOW SHARP YOU'D LOOK I MIGHT HAVE KILLED THE WEE LITTLE WOLF LASS MYSELF--
SNIKT!
...I'LL BE QUIET NOW.
HEY, LOGAN. DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO OWN A SUIT, IF I'M BEING HONEST.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS... NEVER MIND. I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
I'M TAKING KWANNON OUT OF LOCKUP.
SELF WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF THE PRISONERS. IT WAS VOTED ON. SELF CAN'T LET SCARYFRIEND LOGAN TAKE--
I WASN'T ASKING.

SPRINGING PRISONERS AND GOING ON THE RUN? I'M WORRIED I'M BECOMING A BAD INFLUENCE ON YOU, OLD MAN.
YOUR BROTHER SEND YOU TO STOP ME, ALEX?
NO. I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M GOING WITH YOU.
<IF HE WON'T MOVE, YOU TAKE CONTROL OF HIS MIND AND MOVE HIM.>*
<OR YOU COULD JUST USE YOUR CLAWS.>
REALLY CUTE THAT YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO SPEAK JAPANESE. GUESS WHAT? I TOOK A YEAR.
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.
I KNOW SHE JUST CALLED ME HANDSOME.
YOU'RE NOT GOING.
IT'S NOT YOUR CALL.
IT IS.
IT'S MY CAR, LOGAN. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?
JINGLE JINGLE
WHAT THE--
DAMMIT, LOGAN. I'M GOING WITH YOU. I WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING. NOBODY SHOULD WANT THIS.
STAY WITH YOUR BROTHER. STAY WITH THE TEAM. THEY NEED YOU HERE NOW.
YOU DON'T THINK THEY NEED *YOU* HERE?

"THIS IS WHAT THEY NEED ME FOR."
MacDONAILL CEMETARY.
I THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING, BUT I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SPEAK, PLEASE DO. NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THESE I DO, THEY NEVER GET EASIER.
I WISH WE EVER HAD REASONS TO ALL SEE EACH OTHER OTHER THAN DEATH...

"...BUT THAT'S NOT OUR WORLD."
<THIS IS IT.>
I'M HERE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FRIEND, MY SISTER AND MY TEAMMATE. SHE WAS...
WAS.
I... I'M JUST SO #@$%& TIRED OF HAVING TO TALK ABOUT THE PEOPLE I LOVE IN THE PAST TENSE... I'M SORRY. SLEEP WELL, SWEET RAHNE. GIVE OUR LOVE TO TIER. AND ROBERTO. AND SAM. AND AMARA. AND DOUG. AND GUIDO...

"...BOBBY. WARREN. HANK. JEAN. LORNA. KURT. KITTY. ORORO. PIOTR. ANNA-MARIE. RACHEL. BETSY. ALI. JONATHAN...
<YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS I SAY.>
SNIKT!
" ...REMY. JUBILATION. LUCAS. SHIRO. JAPHETH. NEAL. NATHAN. TESSA. JEAN-PAUL. PAIGE. JAMES. HISAKO. MEGGAN. JIMMY. LAURA. JOANNA. DAVID. ANGELICA. MONET...
<THERE.>
"...GABBY. NEZHNO. EVAN. IDIE. CELESTE. MINDEE. PHOEBE. SANTO. NORIKO. VICTOR. ROBERT. GABRIEL. LAURIE. MARTHA. JIA. TREVOR. IARA. LIN. EVA. ALANI. RUTH. FABIO. ERIK. AND CHARLES...
"...AND TOO MANY OTHERS TO NAME."
RAHNE GRACE SINCLAIR DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE IN THIS WORLD. EVERYONE WHO EVER MET HER KNEW IT.
IN A WORLD THAT TEACHES ONLY HATE, SHE LEARNED LOVE. IN A WORLD FULL OF FEAR, SHE FOUND HOPE. IT WAS A WORLD THAT TURNED ITS BACK ON HER YEARS AGO, AND SHE FOUGHT FOR IT EVERY SINGLE DAY.
SHE GAVE MORE THAN SHE HAD TO AND NEVER ASKED ANYTHING IN RETURN...

"THIS WORLD DIDN'T DESERVE HER."
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, AND WHY ARE YOU IN MY HOUSE?
<WHICH ONES?>
<THOSE FOUR. NOT HIM.>
MERRY CHRISTMAS, BUB. YOU GET TO LEAVE.
RUN.
WHAT IS--
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE, LIKE ALL OF US. BUT WE TOOK HER IN. WE GAVE HER A HOME, A FAMILY AND A PURPOSE. AND IN RETURN SHE LOVED US. AND NOTHING WE WOULD EVER DO COULD REPAY THAT.
THE DAY SHE LEFT, I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING--ANYTHING--TO MAKE HER STAY. BUT I LET HER LEAVE AND WATCHED THIS WORLD SWALLOW HER UP. AND I'M SO MAD AT HER...

"WHEN I SEE HER NEXT I'M GONNA ASK HER WHY SHE LEFT AND MADE ME STAY."
<SHOW ME.>
<IT WAS THEM. TRUST ME, LOGAN.>
<I NEED TO SEE IT.>
PIZZA
HEY, MAN. I DON'T LIVE HERE, SO I'M JUST GONNA GO--
SIT!
<SHOW IT TO ME, KWANNON!>
I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T SAY THAT THIS YEAR IS BREAKING ME. I'M SO SICK OF FEELING THIS WAY, I LIE AWAKE AND ASK FOR ANYONE TO MAKE IT GO AWAY...
"THESE DAYS I DON'T KNOW WHO I'M ASKING...
SZZNK!
<SO BE IT. I'M SORRY, LOGAN.>

"...BUT LAST NIGHT I SAW HER...
THAT SUCKED. WE NEVER SHOULDA TRADED PORZINGIS.
"I SAW RAHNE LIKE I HAD SO MANY NIGHTS BEFORE...
HEY?
"SHE SMILED AT ME...
YOU WORK DOWN AT McALEER'S?
OH, NO. I DINNAE REALLY LIVE AROUND HERE ANYMORE, I GUESS.
WHOA. THAT'S QUITE THE ACCENT. LET ME GUESS... AUSTRALIAN?
AH'M FROM SCOTLAND, ACTUALLY.
THAT WAS MY NEXT GUESS! I AM ACTUALLY THINKING OF TAKING A TRIP OVER TO DUBLIN THIS YEAR. MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME SOME COOL PLACES TO CHECK OUT.
THAT'S IRELAND.

"...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I ASKED HER TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF...
OH, RIGHT. WELL MAYBE--
I HAVETA GET GOIN'.
WAIT A SEC. I DON'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE. MY FRIENDS AND I ARE GOING BACK TO MY PLACE TO HANG OUT, MAYBE HAVE SOME DRINKS. IT'D BE COOL IF YOU CAME.
ANOTHER TIME PERHAPS.
WHOA! WAIT A SEC. MAYBE JUST YOU AND ME COULD GO THERE, THEN.
TAKE YER HANDS OFFA ME, PLEASE.
WHOA! CALM DOWN. I JUST WANT TO HANG OUT.
I WAS TRYING TO BE NICE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALL STUCK-UP.
GET OUTTA MAH WAY, PLEASE.
AH SAID NO!

"...AND I ASKED HER TO HELP TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF US TOO...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?
JUST LEMME WALK AWAY.
SHE'S A %#@& MUTANT!
AH'M SORRY. AH DINNAE MEAN TA DO THAT.
NAH AH'M NOT. AH'M JUST A NORMAL GIRL--
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS, FREAK? YOU OUT HERE TO TRAP NORMAL GUYS, HUH?
ALEX TRIED TO BAG A MUTIE CHICK!
DIRTY FREAK!

RAAH!
MY FACE!
AH DINNAE MEAN TA DO THAT! PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU SCREWED UP NOW, MUTIE!
DO YOUR TRICK FOR US, DOGGY! DO IT!
YOU THINK YOU COULD TRICK US, DOGGY?! STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE A NORMAL GIRL!
AH AM...
"I DON'T KNOW THAT I BELIEVED IN ANYONE OR ANYTHING ANYMORE...

"...BUT SHE DID...
$%@#& KID WOULDN'T CHANGE. SHE WOULDN'T DEFEND HERSELF.
I'VE SEEN IT MY WHOLE LIFE, AND I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT.
SOMEONE SO SPECIAL AND ALL SHE WANTED WAS TO BE NOTHING...
SHE WANTED TO BE *NORMAL*. SHE WANTED TO BE LIKE *YOU*.
LISTEN, MAN. WE DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT THE GIRL...
...WE JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT SHE REALLY WAS.
SHUT UP, RON! DON'T TALK ABOUT HER!
HER NAME WAS RAHNE SINCLAIR.
SAY HER NAME.
RAHNE.
R-RAHNE SINCLAIR.
RAHNE SINCLAIR.
RAHNE SINCLAIR.
PIZZA
PIZZA
SHE WAS SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE TO SEE WHAT SHE REALLY WAS.
BUT I'M GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT I REALLY AM.

OH GOD. WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?
YOU WANT US TO OPEN THIS?
THNK
I JUST HAVE ONE REQUEST.
ANYTHING YOU WANT!
"SHE ALWAYS BELIEVED SOMEONE UP THERE LISTENS TO US AT NIGHT WHEN WE PRAY...
SNIKT
FIGHT BACK.
"...ALWAYS AND FOREVER..."
CRASH
OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY! HANDS UP! NOW!
KWANNON?
<THEY ARE WEARING PSYCHIC SHIELDING.>
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE HERE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH THESE MEN WHO KILLED A DEFENSELESS GIRL LAST WEEK, ARE YA?
DON'T MOVE!

WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE TWO KNOWN TERRORISTS DON'T GO AROUND MURDERING CIVILIANS... *MUTIE.*
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT WORD AGAIN IF I WERE YOU.
MY BROTHER WAS AT THE DANBURY FACILITY YOU ATTACKED A FEW MONTHS BACK. HE DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY CHANCE TO PUT YOU IN THE GROUND.
GUESS THAT SETTLES IT...
...AND SHE REMINDED ME THAT I DO TOO. I BELIEVE IN YOU, RAHNEY.

IT TAKES SOME NERVE TO SKIP THE FUNERAL AND THEN WALK BACK IN HERE LIKE IT'S YOUR HOME, LOGAN.
NOT NOW.
NO, WE'RE DOING THIS NOW. I KNOW NOT CARING ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF IS SORT OF YOUR THING, BUT THIS WASN'T--
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!
I TOLD YOU I MOURN IN MY OWN WAY.

I WANT YOU GONE. TONIGHT.
YOU AIN'T TEAM LEADER ANYMORE, REMEMBER, BUB? BUT DON'T WORRY. I'M DONE.
YOU MADE SURE TO TELL US YOU WEREN'T A TEAM PLAYER EVERY CHANCE YOU GOT. WELL GUESS WHAT, "BUB"? YOU WERE RIGHT. YOU WERE NEVER A GOOD TEAMMATE.
CAREFUL. PUSH THIS AND EVERYONE MIGHT START CHOOSING SIDES AGAIN. DIDN'T END GREAT FOR YOU LAST TIME.
WHY WERE YOU EVEN HERE? YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO. WE'RE A FAMILY. YOU'RE JUST HERE TO HURT PEOPLE.
I SPOKE TO BLINDFOLD BEFORE SHE KILLED HERSELF, YOU KNOW. DID YOU TELL *YOUR FAMILY* THAT SHE WARNED YOU NOT TO DO THIS?
DID YOU TELL THEM SHE SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GET THEM ALL KILLED?
SHUT YOUR MOUTH! THIS IS ABOUT THE LEGACY OF THE X-MEN. SOMETHING YOU NEVER CARED ABOUT.
WHAT LEGACY? SUFFERING? TAKING ON THE WHOLE WORLD? BURYING OUR FRIENDS TOO YOUNG? THIS IS FOREVER, RIGHT?
BLINDFOLD TOLD ME TO STAY NEAR YOU BECAUSE SOMETHING BAD WAS COMING. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS US.

HIT TOO CLOSE TO HOME, SLIM?
WHOA!
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
WE'RE THE SAME!
I LET HER LEAVE! I TOLD RAHNE SHE COULD HAVE A DIFFERENT LIFE, AND THEY KILLED HER! SHE DIED BECAUSE SHE BELIEVED ME!
THAT'S WHAT WE DO! WE MARCH THEM INTO HELL BUT ONLY WE GET TO ALWAYS COME BACK OUT!
THAT'S ENOUGH! BOTH OF YA!
WE GOT REAL ENEMIES OUT THERE. REMEMBER? YOU MADE YOUR LITTLE LIST?
YOU'D RATHER FIGHT YOURSELVES THAN STOP MISTER SINISTER? OR BLACK TOM CASSIDY? OR THE MARAUDERS? OR STRYFE? OR...?
HEY...WHY ISN'T EMMA FROST ON YOUR LIST?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CAIN?
WHO THE HELL IS *EMMA FROST?*

18

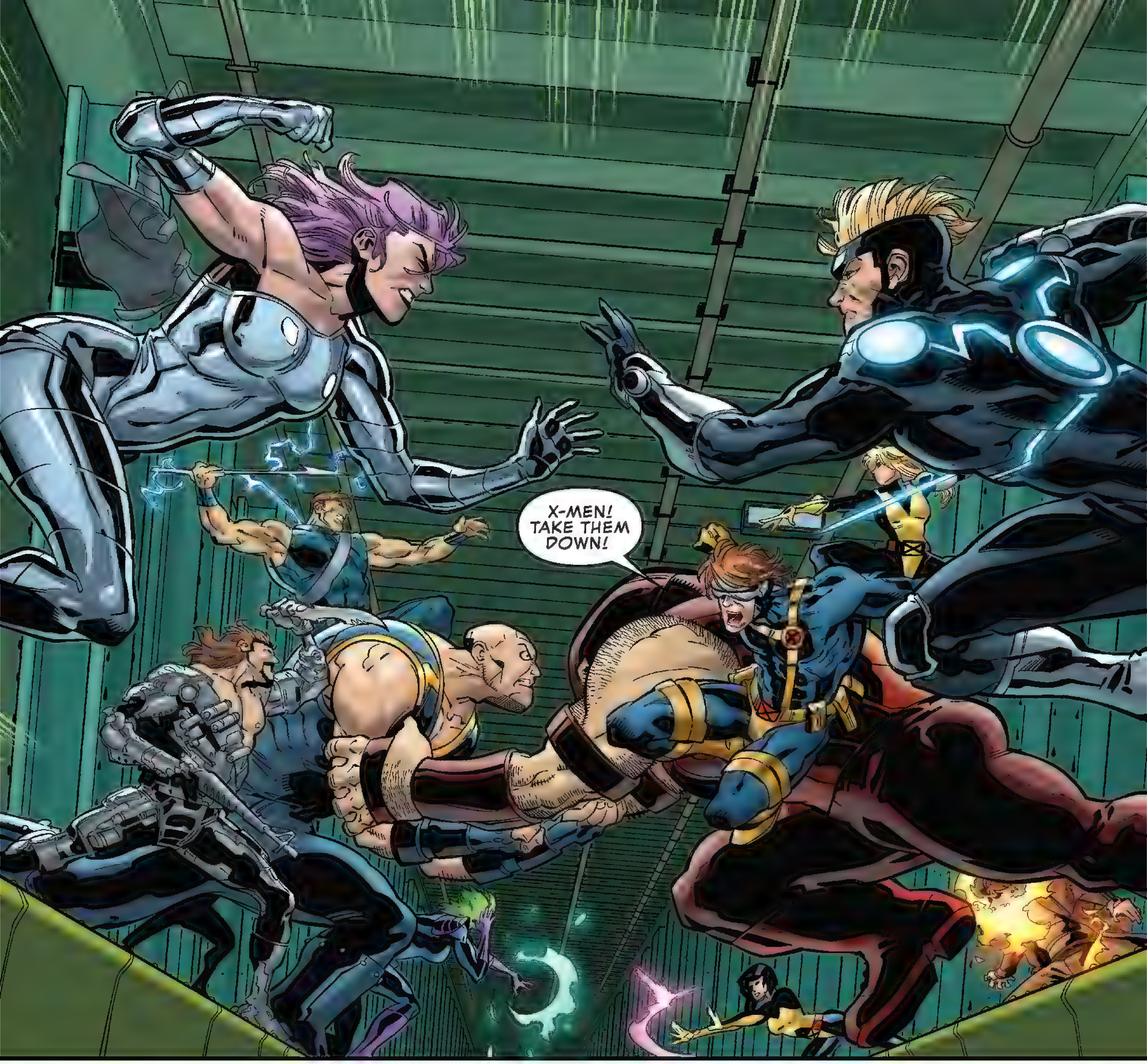
We Have Always Been Part 2

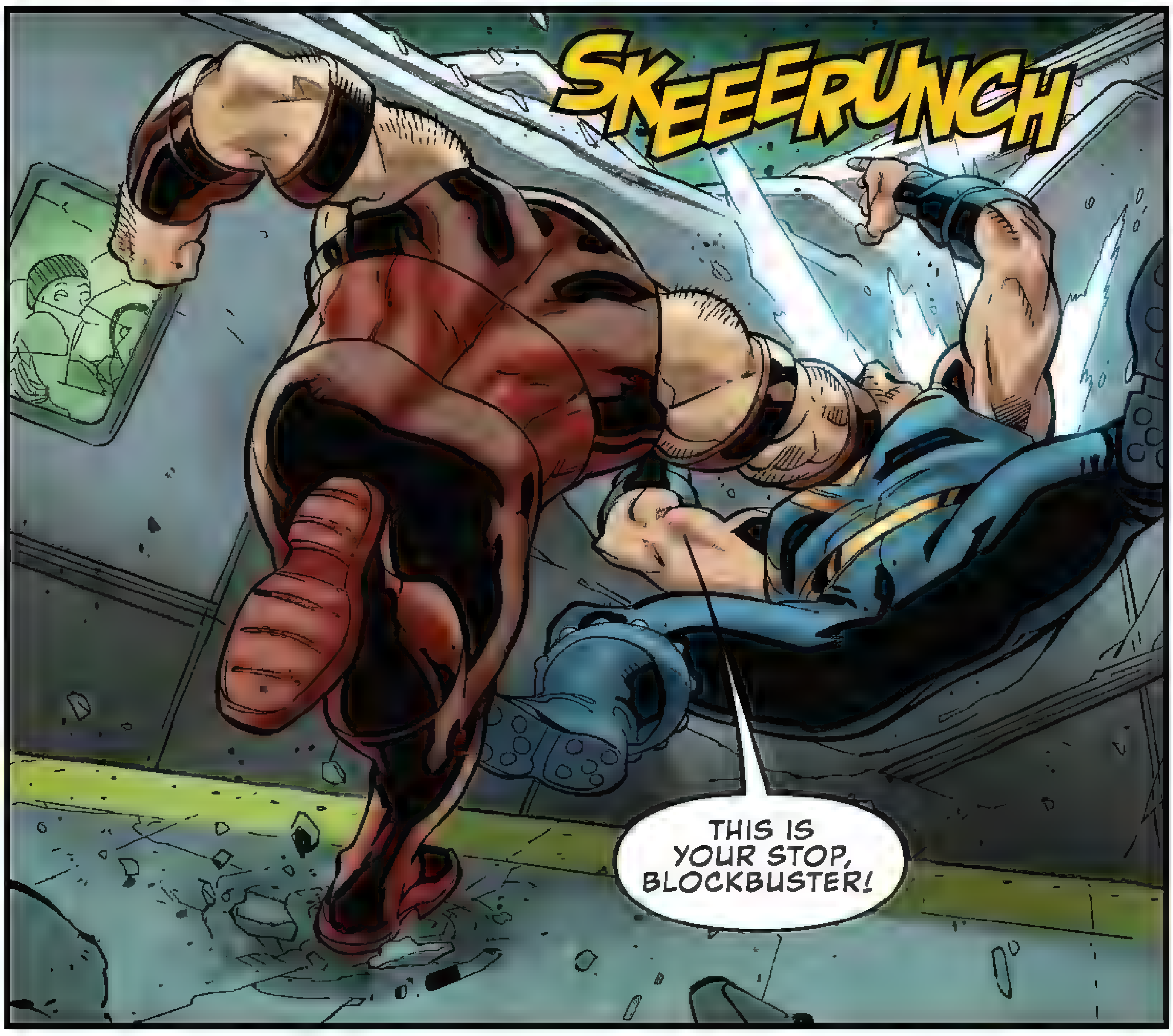
"I NEED TO KEEP THIS TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH TO SEE IT ALL THROUGH."

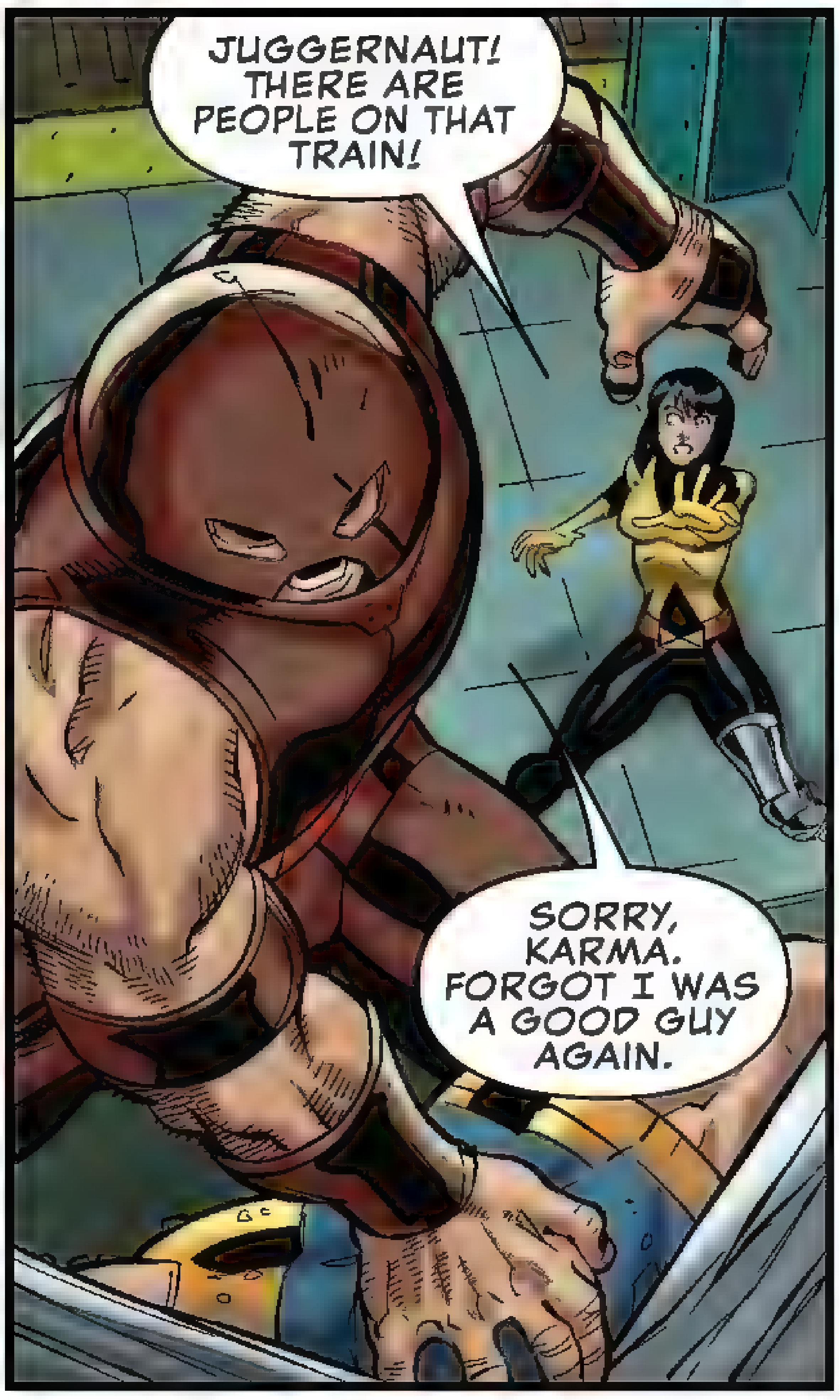
HARRY'S HIDEAWAY. SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.
KNOCK KNOCK
LOGAN? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WANTED YOU TO HEAR IT FROM ME. *I'M DONE.*
AFTER *RAHNE* AND *GUIDO* AND *RUTH*... THIS STUFF WITH *McCOY*, WHOEVER THIS *FROST* LADY IS...
WHATEVER WE'RE DOING HERE... IT'S NOT FOR ME ANYMORE.
I WAS AROUND FOR SAVING THE WORLD OR WHATEVER...BUT THIS? AIN'T NOBODY TRYING TO SAVE ANYTHING ANYMORE. THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE SURE THEY LOOK GOOD IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING *ME?*
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT ON THE TEAM WHO SEE THINGS LIKE I DO. YOU'RE BROKEN IN THE SAME WAYS, ILLYANA. SO I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE BEFORE I GO. DON'T TRUST THEM.
HISTORY BOOKS ARE WRITTEN FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED. PEOPLE LIKE US... WE WANT TO FORGET.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE MAN WHO LEARNED TO BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE? DIDN'T YOU RUN A SCHOOL TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT MAKING A BETTER WORLD?
YEAH. THEN THOSE KIDS WERE ALL KILLED.
YOU SHOULD GET DOWNSTAIRS. CHAMBER FOUND SOMETHING.
YOU WANT ME TO TELL THEM ANYTHING?
TELL THEM TO MAKE ALL THIS COUNT. THEY GET ONE SHOT AT ALL OF THIS...

"...THIS IS FOREVER."
IS THIS OUR TRAIN?
15 St - Prospect Park
WREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
GUESS NOT.

ospect Park
MARAUDERS! WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU IN!
THE X-MEN?! WHAT THE HELL DID WE DO TO YOU NOW?
YOUR ATTACK IN THE SEWERS KILLED DOZENS OF THE MORLOCKS. WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU--
WE DIDN'T DO THAT.
LIAR!
ARCLIGHT IS CORRECT. IF WE DID THIS, I'D BE PROUD. BUT WE DIDN'T. I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHY WE ARE ALL TOGETHER. SOMETHING IS GOING ON WITH OUR--
ENOUGH!


X-MEN! TAKE THEM DOWN!


SKEEERUNCH
THIS IS YOUR STOP, BLOCKBUSTER!


JUGGERNAUT! THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THAT TRAIN!
SORRY, KARMA. FORGOT I WAS A GOOD GUY AGAIN.

LONG TIME NO SEE, ARCLIGHT!
THUNK
AYYY!
I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN BEATING PEOPLE UP, SCALPHUNTER, BUT YOU'RE A SPECIAL CASE.
ZZZARK
THAT'S ENOUGH! WE SURRENDER! WE SURRENDER!

BUT YA GOTTA BELIEVE US! WE DIDN'T ATTACK ANYBODY! I SWEAR! SOMEONE'S BEEN MESSING WITH US!
I SAW WHAT YA DID IN THE TUNNELS! YA MURDEROUS PIECE OF--
CHAMBER, BLOCKBUSTER SURRENDERED. IT'S OVER.
THEY DON'T GET TO DECIDE WHEN IT'S OVER...
FWAAAACH

JONO! NO!
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE DO! WE'RE NOT KILLERS!
WOT THE BLOODY HELL DO WE DO, SUMMERS? YOU WANT TO STOP MUTANTS FROM DYIN'? THIS IS IT, MATE. WE KILL THE KILLERS.
THEN WHO COMES FOR US?
YOU SWORE TO ME IF I RODE WITH YOU, YOU'D LET ME--
OH...
SHUNK
DIE... X-MAN...
YOU FIRST.
BLAM

HANG ON, JONO. PLEASE HANG ON.
BLOODY HELL. I'M ACTUALLY DYING, AREN'T I?
HARPOON'S ENERGY IS DOING SOMETHING TO YOUR POWERS, JONO.
JONO, WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE--
%$@# YOU, SUMMERS. YOU KILLED ME.
%$@# YOU FOREVER.
MAGIK, GET US HOME NOW!
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
THEY'RE DEAD. LET'S GO.
GOING.
SHRAK

WHAT THE...?! ILLYANA, TAKE US HOME!
I DID...
HARRY'S HIDEAWAY, GIRL! NOT LIMBO!
THIS IS OUR HOME, DANI.
JUGGERNAUT, WE HAVE PEOPLE IN THE BASEMENT. GET DARK BEAST, KWANNON AND WARLOX OUT.
ON IT, BOSS.
EEEEEEEEE
EVERYONE ELSE GET OUTSIDE!

MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS OUT!
BAR WAS CLOSED. ONLY OUR PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THERE. MAGIK, GET CHAMBER TO A--
HE'S GONE. HIS ENERGY JUST...WENT OUT.
SMASH
GOT 'EM!
WELL, THESE TWO. NO SIGN OF BETSY.
SHE'S NOT BETS-- DOESN'T MATTER.
AH, DAMN. IS HE DEAD?
WHAT A SHAME. HE WAS SUCH A UNIQUELY GRUESOME SPECIMEN.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR LIVING QUARTERS, BY THE BY. I SIMPLY CAME TO CHAT, BUT WHEN I DISCOVERED YOU WERE MURDERING MY PROTÉGÉS WHILE THEY PEACEFULLY WAITED FOR MASS TRANSIT, MY TEMPER GOT THE BETTER OF ME, I'M AFRAID.
SINISTER!
I WOULD COMMENT ON HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN, BUT I FEAR THEY FELL SOME TIME AGO. FIELDING A TEAM OF IMITATION X-MEN IN THE BACK OF A SPEAKEASY IS A BIT BENEATH YOU, SCOTT, NO?
YOU WERE NEXT ON OUR LIST, SINISTER. YOU JUST SAVED US A TRIP.
YOUR GLORIOUS SPECIES IS ON THE EVE OF ITS EXTINCTION AND YOU ARE BRAWLING WITH HOODLUMS IN THE STREETS AND MAKING PLANS TO HUNT EXCEPTIONAL MEN. YOU ALWAYS LACKED VISION, BUT THIS IS PATHETIC EVEN FOR YOU.
WHEN MUTANTS ARE BUT A SMALL CHAPTER IN BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS, THE POLIO OF THE 21ST CENTURY, I WILL MAKE SURE THAT SCOTT SUMMERS IS MENTIONED.
"THE MAN WHO POKED HOLES IN HIS OWN SINKING SHIP TO LET THE WATER OUT."
I THINK I CAN GET CONTROL OF HIS MIND...
GOT HIM!

DO YOU NOW, *MON ENFANT ARROGANT?*
GUUUUHHH!
MIGHT I SUGGEST YOU DON'T TRY YOUR PARLOR TRICKS ON PEOPLE WHO ARE YOUR SUPERIOR IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY? MY MIND WOULD BE YOUR GRAVE, LITTLE GIRL.
YOU TALK A GOOD GAME ABOUT HOW SMART YOU ARE, SINNY. BUT YOU AIN'T GETTING MUCH DONE BESIDES A LITTLE LIGHT ARSON.
AH, THE WEAK LINK IN THE SUMMERS GENETIC CHAIN SPEAKS UP. WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, ALEXANDER... WELL, I ACTUALLY CAN'T FATHOM WHEN THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN.
OH LOOK. ANOTHER SUPRISE. THE SINISTER FIRE BRIGADE! AREN'T I THE BEST NEMESIS?
X-MEN, REGROUP ON ME!
ARE THERE REAL PEOPLE UNDER THERE OR ARE THEY SINISTER ALL THE WAY THROUGH?
KNOWING HIM, IF THEY WERE REAL PEOPLE THEY'RE GONE NOW.
MAKING US FIGHT COPIES OF HIMSELF? GOTTA HAND IT TO HIM. HE NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS.
THIS IS *LITERALLY* MY POWER SET.
HE MAKES IT SEEM COOLER.

FORGET THIS. I'M TAKING OUT THE REAL ONE.
AH, MISTER MARKO. I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.
BUT YOU AREN'T EVEN A MUTANT, SO MY SURPRISE IS FAR OUTWEIGHED BY MY BOREDOM.
I'LL COME FIND YOU IF I EVER DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN STUDYING CRYSTALS OR BRAIN DAMAGE. FOR NOW, LET ME SHOW YOU ALL A TRICK MY CLONES HAVE BEEN WORKING ON...
TA-DA! IMPRESSIVE, AREN'T THEY?
OKAY, THAT I CAN'T DO.

YOU COULDN'T HANDLE BUT ONE OF ME. WHAT HOPE DO YOU HAVE NOW, X-MEN?
I'M DONE WITH THIS GUY! X-MEN, STAND BACK!
ALEX! THAT'S TOO MUCH!
ALEX!
HE'S...NOT... STOPPING...

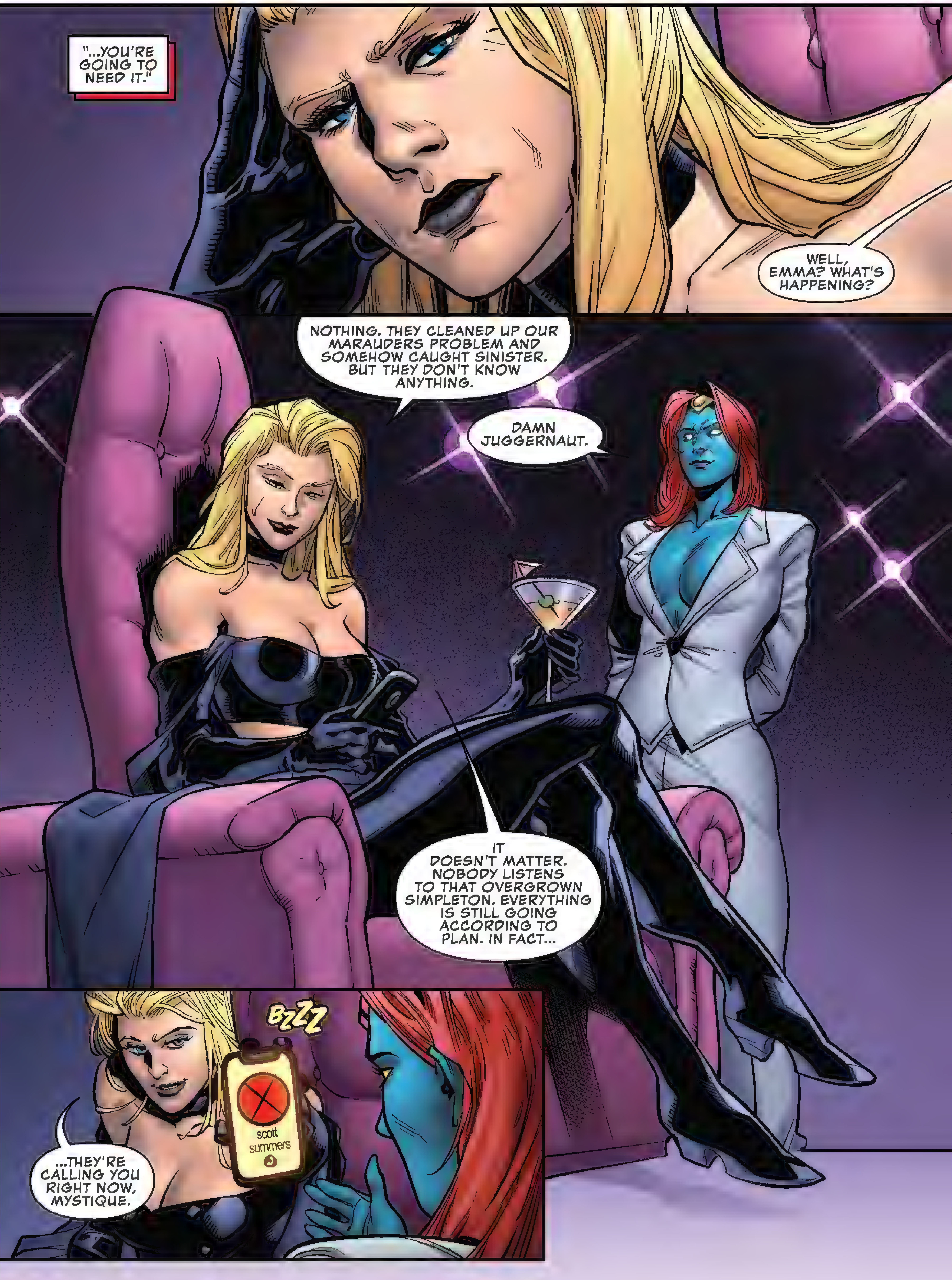
AHHHHH!
FWOOOM!
HUH. I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT.
OH WELL. I GUESS I SURRENDER. PLEASE DON'T LIGHT ME ON FIRE.
GOOD JOB, LITTLE...
HOLY CRAP.
YOU GUYS ARE SEEING THIS TOO, RIGHT?
THIS IS THE WESTCHESTER POLICE! REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE!
THIS LOOKS BAD. WE HAVE TO GO.
GO WHERE, KARMA?

"I HAVE A PLACE."
THIS IS GOOD.
WHAT ABOUT THIS IS GOOD?
MANHATTAN.
I WAS RELATIVELY SURE YOU WERE GOING TO LOSE MOLECULAR COHESION LAST NIGHT, SO *THIS* IS AN IMPROVEMENT... FOR YOU. *I* WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE IT.
NOW YOU REST AND WE WAIT.
WELL, LAST NIGHT SUCKED. WE GOT PLANS FOR TONIGHT?
YOU NEED TO REST, ALEX.
WELL, THAT'S *AN* OPINION. BUT MY DOCTOR *ALSO* SAID HE WANTED TO SEE ME EVAPORATE. SO I'M WEIGHING ALL OPTIONS RIGHT NOW.
HOW AM *I* THE ONE TRYING TO CHEER *YOU* UP RIGHT NOW?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ALEX...
AND I'M THINKING...DID THAT ALL FEEL TOO EASY?
WHAT ABOUT LAST NIGHT FELT *EASY*, SCOTT?
SINISTER. HE JUST GAVE UP?
AND I GAVE UP TRYING TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE LIKE HIM A LONG TIME AGO. YOU SHOULD TOO.
OKAY. EVERYBODY OUT. I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT DARK BEAST IS RIGHT. ALEX NEEDS HIS REST.
I'M STAYING.
FINE. BUT LET HIM SLEEP.

WARLOX, TAKE DARK BEAST BACK TO HIS... QUARTERS.
THE REST OF YOU, YOU ALREADY PICKED OUT YOUR ROOMS. GO GET SOME SLEEP.
WE ALREADY LOST ONE TEAMMATE TONIGHT. WE STAND BY OUR OWN.
FINE, ILLYANA. BUT BE QUIET.
MY PEOPLE TOOK JONO'S BODY. THEY ARE DEALING WITH EVERYTHING. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAD A FAMILY. SOMEONE SHOULD CALL--
I WILL.
SHAN, THIS PLACE IS AMAZING. WHAT--
WHAT IS IT?
NO. I WAS GOING TO ASK WHAT YOU WERE DOING MAKING US ALL LIVE ABOVE THAT MISERABLE BAR WHEN WE COULD HAVE BEEN HERE... BUT SURE, ANSWER YOURS.
I HAD THEM START BUILDING IT AS SOON AS I COULD. IT TOOK ME A BIT TO GET MY LIFE, AND MY FUNDS, BACK IN ORDER AFTER WE...AFTER WE WERE CURED.
I WANTED TO GIVE EVERYONE SOMETHING NICE... AS A GOODBYE PRESENT.

WHAT?!
DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED, DANI. YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO SEE THIS COMING. I DON'T BELONG ON THE X-MEN ANYMORE.
I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT A LOT. IT'S NOT TRUE, SHAN.
IT IS. MOST OF MY FRIENDS ON THE X-MEN ARE DEAD OR...OR NOT MY FRIENDS ANYMORE. ALL I HAVE LEFT IS YOU. THE OTHERS DON'T TRUST ME. ILLYANA *HATES* ME.
'YANA KINDA HATES EVERYONE.
SHE'S NOT WRONG TO HATE ME. WHAT I DID TO HER, TO MY TEAM...I WAS UNDER MY BROTHER'S INFLUENCE, BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE IT. I BETRAYED THE PEOPLE I CARE MOST ABOUT, AND I CAN'T JUST ACT LIKE I DIDN'T. AND I CAN'T FIX IT ANYMORE.
SO THIS *IS* ABOUT RAHNEY?
NO. I WAS LEAVING BEFORE. BUT HER DEATH DIDN'T HELP ME FIND A REASON TO STAY. ALL OF THEM--ROBERTO, GUIDO...NOW JONO...AND RAHNE.
SHE HATED ME, DANI.
I COULD SEE IT IN HER EYES. SHE DIED HATING ME. AND I'M JUST DONE.
SHE QUIT BEFORE I COULD. AND SHE DIED BECAUSE OF IT.
SHE DIED BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T FIGHT BACK, SHAN. IF YOU--
I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE. I PROMISE. I HAVE MY LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER TO WATCH OUT FOR. AND I ARRANGED TO TAKE CUSTODY OF SHOGO TOO.
BUT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FUTURE. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT?
ARE WE? BECAUSE IT FEELS TO ME LIKE WE'RE THROWING OURSELVES AT A WALL JUST HOPING IT FALLS. AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.
WHERE WILL YOU GO?
I'M RICH, DANI. I CAN GO WHEREVER I WANT...

"...BUT I OWE IT TO MY FAMILY TO TRY AND FIND A BETTER FUTURE... ANY FUTURE... WHILE WE STILL CAN."
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS EMMA FROST THING?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP.
AND YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO STARE AT PEOPLE WHILE THEY SLEEP, BUT HERE WE ARE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ALEX. I DON'T THINK YOU GET HOW DANGEROUS PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE THAT WAS.
SAID THE ONLY GUY TO EVER GET SHOT IN THE FACE AND NOT QUESTION ANY OF THEIR LIFE CHOICES AFTERWARD.
I DID QUESTION--
IT'S A #$%& JOKE, SCOTT. MY FRIEND DIED TONIGHT. I ALMOST TURNED INTO A CLOUD AND NOBODY HAS ANY IDEA WHY. THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS LAUGH AT MY JOKES.
TELL BETTER JOKES.
SO...THIS EMMA FROST PERSON...
WHAT IS THERE TO TALK ABOUT? SHE APPEARS TO BE A MUTANT PSYCHIC WHO HAS HIDDEN HERSELF FROM US.
MAKES SENSE. I'D DO THE SAME IF I WERE HER. WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME? JUGGERNAUT SAID YOU AND HER WERE VERY CLOSE...
CAIN SAYS A LOT OF THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE...
THAT'S IT? THAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
WE AREN'T GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE MYSTERY WOMAN WE ALL KNEW BUT NONE OF US CAN REMEMBER?
WE'RE DONE HERE. I HAVE TO GO CALL CAPTAIN AMERICA AND TELL HIM TO COME PICK UP SINISTER.
GET SOME REST, ALEX...


"...YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT."
WELL, EMMA? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
NOTHING. THEY CLEANED UP OUR MARAUDERS PROBLEM AND SOMEHOW CAUGHT SINISTER. BUT THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
DAMN JUGGERNAUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOBODY LISTENS TO THAT OVERGROWN SIMPLETON. EVERYTHING IS STILL GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. IN FACT...
BZZZ
scott summers
...THEY'RE CALLING YOU RIGHT NOW, MYSTIQUE.

19

We Have Always Been Part 3

"IT SEEMS IT IS FINALLY TIME TO LAY OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE AND SEE WHO HAS THE BETTER BLUFF."

THE UPPER EAST SIDE. MANHATTAN.
MONTHS AGO.
I REMEMBER WHEN NEW YORK ACTUALLY FELT INTERESTING...
EVERYTHING FEELS SO *BEEN DONE.*
SHOULD WE...DO SOMETHING, MISS FROST?
THE X-MEN AND THEIR SQUABBLES...COULD ANYTHING BE MORE PEDESTRIAN, DARLING?
NO, THIS ISN'T WHAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB DOES, VANISHER. THE X-MEN HANDLE THE UNWASHED MASSES AND THEIR BORING RACISM. AND WE ARE NO LONGER X-MEN.
AND IF THEY DON'T HANDLE IT?
THEN WE GO TO WAR...

HELLFIRE CLUB.
LATER.
"...OUR WAY."
WITH A DONATION TO MY NEW SCHOOL, THERE'S A CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANT CHILDREN. AND, OF COURSE, I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU ALL LOVE HAVING YOUR NAMES ON BUILDINGS.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
EMMA FROST.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
OH MY GOD!
WHO ARE THEY?!
BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED US BY THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.
OH, THIS IS A JOKE! ROBOTIC VERSIONS OF THE LEAST INTERESTING AMONG MY FORMER TEAMMATES. HOW WONDERFULLY BIZARRE. WHO SENT YOU?

STAND DOWN AT ONCE, OR WE WILL USE FORCE.
THE JOKE'S GONE ON LONG ENOUGH NOW, WHOEVER YOU ARE. TRY TO TOUCH ME AND I WILL MAKE SURE YOU SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT THINKING YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE REALLY...
DEAR GOD, DANI! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
WHAM
SELVES ARE NOT IN CONTROL. HELP US.
PLEASE HELP US.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, MR. CAROSELLA, BUT YOU'VE MADE A HORRIFIC MISCALCULATION HERE TONIGHT.
KRAKK
THWACK
RECALCULATING.
BLOODY HELL...

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, DANI, YOU POOR GIRL...
MOONLOCK IS A WEAPON.
BUILT FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF ALL GENETIC DEVIATIONS DEEMED DANGEROUS.
ALL MUTANTS MUST BE CONTAINED.
VANISHER, GET US OUT OF--
VROOOOOSHH

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
WHAT-- THIS WON'T DO.
SOLDIER? CAN WE GET THESE LIGHTS DIMMED?
AH, THE GLAMOROUS EMMA FROST. I WAS HOPING WE'D GET THE CHANCE TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE.
MY NAME IS GENERAL ROBERT CALLAHAN, AND I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL--
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
GOOD. THEN I ASSUME YOU ALSO KNOW WHAT I WANT AND WHAT I AM WILLING TO DO TO GET IT.
LUCKILY FOR YOU, I LIKE YOU, MISS FROST. I CAME OUT HERE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER. I WANT YOU TO HELP ME DEAL WITH THE MUTANT PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
YOU DO THAT AND ALL THESE POWER INHIBITORS, NEURAL DAMPENERS AND PSYCHIC FEEDBACK MACHINES GO AWAY.
GO $%@# YOURSELF, YOU PATHETIC, DISEASED, LITTLE #$%& OF A MAN. I'D DIE BEFORE I'D HELP YOU.
WE'LL SEE...
SOLDIER, LET'S GET THESE LIGHTS BACK UP--200 PERCENT. THIS ONE NEEDS TO COOK A LITTLE MORE.

DAYS LATER.
TURNS OUT YOU *CAN* TARNISH A DIAMOND. IT JUST TAKES SOME TIME...
I'M JUST TEASING, MISS FROST. YOU LOOK ALMOST AS LOVELY AS EVER. THE THINGS YOU AND I COULD GET UP TO IF YOU WERE HUMAN...
BUT I DIGRESS. WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME, EMMA?
...
NOTHING? SO BE IT.
SOLDIER, TURN THE MACHINES BACK--
SERUM.
WHAT WAS THAT?
HANK McCOY HAS A SERUM. IT CURES MUTATIONS.
THE CURE? DO YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF ME, EMMA? I KNOW THAT ALL TRACES WERE DESTROYED YEARS AGO. AND EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T, I'M NOT EXACTLY IN A POSITION TO WALK INTO THEIR LITTLE HOUSE AND TAKE IT. IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN--
I CAN GET SOMEONE TO TAKE IT FOR YOU.
I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU WERE *PERSONA NON GRATA* TO THE X-MEN THESE DAYS.
I AM... BUT I CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE IF YOU'D JUST LET ME SHOW YOU.
MY MEN HAVE PSI SHIELDS, POWER DAMPENERS AND ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES IN THAT COLLAR TO TURN YOUR SHINY LITTLE HEAD INTO DUST. DON'T TRY TO BE CLEVER HERE, EMMA.
SOLDIER, LOWER ALL POWER DAMPENERS FOR MISS FROST. *CAREFULLY.*
I'M SORRY, ANOLE.

≈GASP≈
AH, GOOD. YOU'RE AWAKE.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
WHAT DID--? YOU PASSED OUT, EMMA. GAVE US QUITE A SCARE, ACTUALLY. EVEN A BODY SUCH AS YOURS HAS LIMITS, IT SEEMS.
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN BY TO UPDATE YOU RECENTLY. YOUR LITTLE GREEN FRIEND BROUGHT THE SERUM TO OUR PEOPLE. IT'S TRULY YEARS AHEAD OF ANYTHING WE HAD.
MY SCIENTISTS TELL ME THEY CAN TURN IT INTO A VACCINE THAT WILL DESTROY THE X-GENE IN CHILDREN BEFORE THEY EVER SHOW ANY HINT OF MUTATION.
THINK OF ALL THE NEEDLESS SUFFERING WE CAN PREVENT. AND THANKS TO YOU, WE CAN ALSO NOW PERMANENTLY DISABLE THE POWERS OF FULLY FORMED MUTANTS.

DON'T WORRY. YOU STILL HAVE YOUR POWERS. *FOR NOW.*
BUT THAT'S WHERE THE GOOD NEWS ENDS FOR YOU, I'M AFRAID. WE PLACED A DEVICE IN YOUR HEAD. AN INSURANCE POLICY. IF YOU TRY ANYTHING AT ALL, *VOILÀ*, NO MORE READING MINDS OR SPARKLY SKIN EVER AGAIN.
IF YOUR HOPE NOW IS THAT DR. McCOY COULD STOP OR REVERSE ALL THIS...
...HE'S DEAD. THEY'RE *ALL* DEAD. BAD NEWS FOR YOU AND YOUR KIND, GOOD NEWS FOR HUMANITY.
WHY DO YOU THINK I'D EVER BELIEVE A WORD THAT COMES OUT OF YOUR SNIVELING LITTLE--
IT SEEMS THAT LEGION AND X-MAN FINALLY ACCOMPLISHED WHAT SO MANY HAVE TRIED AND FAILED.
DAILY
NO MORE X-MEN
by Kat Farrell
United Nations officially calls off search for the radical mutant activists known as the X-Men and declares them dead. World celebrates.
BETWEEN MY LITTLE GENE BOMB IN YOUR SKULL AND THIS LITTLE DEVICE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF MY HEAD, I'VE DECIDED I NO LONGER NEED TO KEEP YOU ON SUCH A SHORT LEASH.
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE AND TAKE YOUR TELEPORTER WITH YOU NOW. YOU CAN SEARCH FOR YOUR DEAD FRIENDS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME. OH, AND EMMA?

"WE'LL BE IN TOUCH."
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PAY FOR ALL THIS, MISS? YOUR TOTAL IS 9,800 DOLLARS.
OH. RIGHT. FROST?
THE GIRL IS WITH ME. YOU CAN PUT IT ALL ON MY ACCOUNT, MEREDITH.
OH, MISS FROST... I DIDN'T... I'M AFRAID THAT YOUR ACCOUNT HAS BEEN... THERE IS A SLIGHT CREDIT PROBLEM.
YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE. WE WILL BE WALKING OUT NOW WITH OUR CLOTHES. AND NEXT TIME I COME IN YOU WILL REMOVE YOUR BOORISH SELF FROM MY SIGHT, CORRECT?
OF COURSE, MISS FROST. HAVE A LOVELY DAY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A NOBLE IN THE HELLFIRE CLUB, IT IS OF THE UTMOST THAT YOU LOOK THE PART, SARAH.
NOW LET'S SEE HOW THE OTHERS DID WITH THEIR SHOPPING...

OH, EMMA. HOW I WISH YOU HAD JUST COME WHEN I CALLED FOR YOU. DID YOU THINK HAVING TO DO THIS WOULDN'T BOTHER ME?
SAY THE WORD, FROST, AND--
VANISHER, ELIXIR, STAND DOWN! I WILL HANDLE THIS.
THIS IS ME CALLING YOUR BLUFF, GENERAL. IF YOU COULD HAVE SHUT OFF MY POWERS, YOU WOULD HAVE. YOU KNOW I'M FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO TOY WITH.
IT'S A SHAME THERE AREN'T MORE MUTANTS AROUND FOR YOU TO TEST YOUR EQUIPMENT ON, GENERAL. YOU MIGHT FIND THAT YOUR PSYCHIC SHIELD NEEDS SOME WORK.
WAIT!
GOODBYE, GENERAL.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE...
YOU'RE STILL AROUND BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS A USE FOR YOU. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PLAY BALL.
BUT YOU CAN MAKE ME PULL THIS TRIGGER AND ALL THAT GOES AWAY...
THIS DESPERATION SUITS YOU.

YOU'RE GAMBLING WITH A LOT OF LIVES HERE, EMMA. DOES MR. PORTER HERE UNDERSTAND THE GAME YOU'RE PLAYING WITH HIS?
DON'T YOU DARE-- VANISHER, GO!
ALLOW US TO SHOW HIM.
CLICK
MISS FROST! I CAN'T--
NO!
SPLORTCH
HMM...THAT'S NOT WHAT WE ANTICIPATED. MY PEOPLE *DID* WARN ME THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT PHYSIOLOGIES THAT NO STUDY WOULD WORK WITHOUT A HUGE TEST GROUP.
LIKE I SAID, McCOY'S SERUM IS FASCINATING.
YOUR UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU BACK, EMMA. BUT NO MORE OUTBURSTS LIKE THIS, UNDERSTOOD? YOUR GIRL HAS OUR LIST OF MUTANT TARGETS. IT'S HARD TO GET A GOOD SENSE OF WHO IS STILL OUT THERE, BUT WE'RE STARTING WITH SOME OLD FAVORITES. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S COMING. GET US *BLINDFOLD* FIRST...
I--I CAN'T HELP HIM.

"...YOU FIND HER FOR US AND NOBODY WILL HAVE TO CLEAN YOU OFF MADISON AVENUE WITH A MOP."
MISS FROST? MISS FROST?
MY APOLOGIES FOR BEING DISTRACTED, JOSHUA. I SENT THE MARAUDERS AFTER BLINDFOLD, BUT IT WOULD SEEM THEY ARE AS INCOMPETENT AS THEY ARE BRUTAL.
AND SHE KEEPS MOVING AROUND IN WAYS I CAN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND.
THESE CAME FOR YOU, MISS FROST.
YOU ARE THE *BLACK BISHOP* OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB NOW. PLEASE CALL ME EMMA.
OF COURSE, EMMA. WHAT DOES THE CARD SAY?
"DEAR EMMA, WE FOUND CASSANDRA NOVA LAST NIGHT THANKS TO YOU. SHE DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT. TO THE FIRST OF MANY." SIGNED GENERAL ROBERT CALLAHAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HELPING THEM. THEY ARE HUNTING OUR--
YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DISPLEASURE KNOWN. DO YOU REALLY THINK I ENJOY ANY PART OF THIS? THESE GAMES ARE WON BY THINKING TEN MOVES AHEAD OF YOUR OPPONENT. WE WILL LET CALLAHAN THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'S DONE. AND WHEN MY TIME COMES HE'LL REALIZE HOW POORLY HE'S PLAYED HIS HAND.
BESIDES, WITHOUT CEREBRO, WHAT THEY'VE ASKED OF ME IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
I CAN'T JUST SEARCH EVERY MIND OF THE PLANET MYSELF IN THE HOPES OF FINDING...
IT CAN'T BE...HE'S ALIVE?
GATHER MARROW. WE HAVE TO GO.
WHERE--
NOW.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS...
BUT IT MEANS SOMETHING, SCOTT. I KNOW THAT.
I LOVE YOU, SCOTT SUMMERS. I'VE HOPED EVERY SINGLE DAY THAT YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU DIED. AND I HOPE YOU REMEMBER IT NOW.
I KNOW THAT IF I TRIED TO STOP YOU FROM SAVING THE WORLD, IT WOULD DESTROY YOU. BUT I NEED YOU TO BE CAREFUL FOR ME. STAY OUT OF SIGHT. YOU DO THAT...
...AND I WILL FIND A WAY FOR US TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN. I PROMISE.
HUH?

WHAT DID HE SAY?
SHE DIDN'T SPEAK WITH HIM.
WHAT? I JUST WATCHED THEM TALK--
HE DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS THERE.
MISS FROST, THAT'S INSANE. YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM. WE COULD USE HIS--
NO! HE STAYS OUT OF THIS. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, MA'AM. BUT...
...BUT YOU LOVE HIM.
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, YOU SIMPLE BOY.
AND NOW IF I SPEAK WITH HIM, THEY'LL KNOW HE'S ALIVE. AND THEY WILL KILL HIM. IF HE COMES LOOKING FOR ME, THEY WILL KILL HIM.
I READ HIS THOUGHTS. HE'S GOING TO TRY AND RE-FORM THE X-MEN AND GO AFTER HIS ENEMIES. BUT IF HE'S NOT SMART ENOUGH TO DO IT FROM THE SHADOWS, HE WILL GET HIMSELF KILLED AGAIN...

"...SO WE SHAN'T DISCUSS THIS FURTHER."
CRUNCH
I'MMA SHOVE MY FOOT UP YOUR--
WHACK
HELLO, LOGAN.
HELLO, EMMA.
SNIKT

I DON'T RELISH HAVING TO COME DOWN HERE TO FIND YOU. I DON'T NORMALLY DO *BOROUGH*, YOU KNOW.
SHOULDA CALLED. I'D HAVE HAPPILY COME TO YOUR PLACE AND STABBED YOU THERE INSTEAD.
SPARE ME THE THEATRICS, LOGAN. I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU PRACTICALLY CHOKED SAYING THAT.
HARD TO GET THE WORDS OUT WHILE SWALLOWING MY NOT INSIGNIFICANT PRIDE. SO I'M FIXING A COCKTAIL TO WASH IT DOWN EASIER. CAN I MAKE YOU ONE?
I DON'T DRINK WITH PEOPLE I HATE.
YOU *ARE* A LONELY DRUNK.
SCOTT'S BACK.
THAT'S #$%&@&.
I'D HAVE SAID THE SAME THING IF I HADN'T JUST WATCHED HIM EAT 4,000 CALORIES OF PURE SADNESS.
WHAT'D HE SAY?
WE DIDN'T SPEAK. AND WE WON'T. NOT YET AT LEAST. AND THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU.
I'M HAPPY SLIM IS BACK. THE WORLD COULD USE HIM RIGHT ABOUT NOW. BUT I'M DONE WITH HIM. AND YOU.
I ASSUMED YOU'D SAY THAT. BUT I'M AFRAID THAT WHEN I WALK OUT OF HERE, YOU WILL WANT TO SEE HIM. YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST TO LOOK OUT FOR HIM, AS ONLY YOU CAN. AND NEITHER OF YOU WILL EVEN REMEMBER I EXIST.
--I... WHAT THE--?
SMASH!
--ASS!

DAMMIT.
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR FIXING MYSELF A MIDNIGHT--
MARROW?!
CRASH!
YOU LIED TO US, FROST!
HOW DARE YOU BARGE IN HERE AND LAY A HAND ON HER! I'M DOING EVERYTHING YOU--
CYCLOPS IS ALIVE.
THE BOY? YES, EVERYONE KNOW--
THE BOY IS GONE. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE. THIS IS THE *MAN.* YOUR LOVER.
AND HE BROKE INTO ONE OF OUR LABS IN RIDGEWOOD EARLIER TONIGHT. YOU KNEW HE WAS BACK.
IF I KNEW HE WAS BACK HE'D BE IN MY BED WITH ME RIGHT NOW, GENERAL.
WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU LATER. BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US FIND HIM AND KILL HIM.
WAIT... NO...
HE COULD BE OF USE.
HE IS A HEADSTRONG IDEALIST, A PRINCIPLED TERRORIST, AND, UNTIL THIS WEEK, WAS A MARTYR FOR HIS CAUSE. HE'D NEVER WORK WITH--
NOT WILLINGLY, NO. BUT I CAN BE PERSUASIVE.
IF I KNOW MY EX, HE WILL BRING TOGETHER WHATEVER X-MEN HE CAN. LET *THEM* HUNT OUR TARGETS. USE OUR ENEMIES AGAINST EACH OTHER AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CLEAN UP WHATEVER IS LEFT.
EMMA, YOU MONSTROUS CREATURE...

"...I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON I LET YOU LIVE."
HELLFIRE CLUB PARKING GARAGE.
NOW.
MISTER ROGERS, I OFFER YOU THIS ADVICE FREE OF CHARGE. FOR A MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF, SO RECENTLY PAINTED WITH THE BROAD BRUSH OF FASCISM, I MIGHT SUGGEST AN EXAMINATION OF YOUR CURRENT COURSE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MANNER OF DEALS ARE BROKERED THAT GETS A MAN LIKE SCOTT SUMMERS HUNTING MUTANTS FOR THIS GOVERNMENT, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THE HISTORY BOOKS WILL NOT LOOK KINDLY ON YOUR ROLE IN THIS DEBACLE.
FRANKLY, I AM SURPRISED TO FIND YOU INVOLVED.
GET USED TO THAT FEELING.
EMMA FROST. THIS IS UNEXPECTED...
MISTER SINISTER. YOU'VE BEEN BESTED BY SCOTT SUMMERS AGAIN, I SEE.
AND YOU'RE STILL FAKING THE ACCENT, I SEE. TELL ME, ARE YOU AN AVENGER NOW? THE BRAND IS NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS.
I'M NO AVENGER. THE CAPTAIN HERE WORKS WITH ME...
...IN A SENSE.
OH, MYSTIQUE. WHAT A TWIST INDEED. I WAS WONDERING WHY I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HAVING CARNAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOOD CAPTAIN. IT SEEMS THE LOINS KNOW WHAT THE MIND DOES NOT.
WELL, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RESCUING ME FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THOSE VILE X-MEN. I THOUGHT TODAY WAS GOING TO END ON A MUCH DARKER NOTE.
NOW WHY DON'T YOU BE A DEAR AND TAKE THESE ACCURSED SHACKLES OFF ME SO WE CAN HAVE SOME BRANDY AND DISCUSS OUR MUTUAL INFATUATION WITH SCOTT SUMMERS.
OH, YOU MISUNDERSTAND, NATHANIEL. I DIDN'T *RESCUE* YOU FROM THE X-MEN. THEY *WORK* FOR ME.

SHALL I ARRANGE FOR CALLAHAN'S MEN TO PICK HIM UP, BLACK KING?
NO, THE WHITE KING WILL TAKE HIM TO HIS CELL. THEY AREN'T TO KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE.
HE'S MINE.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL CALLAHAN DOWN HERE AND SAVE ME A TRIP? HE'S MY NEXT STOP.
LOGAN...
IT'S BEEN A REAL LONG TIME, FROST. I'M GOING TO TAKE IT SLOW SO I CAN SAVOR IT.
OH, THIS DAY KEEPS GETTING MORE AND MORE DELIGHTFUL.

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We Have Always Been Part 4

"I'M SORRY I USED YOU. YOU ALWAYS DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT AND SO DID I. AND IF I AM RIGHT NONE OF THIS WILL MATTER. THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER NEED THE X-MEN... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M WRONG."

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YOU'RE SURE IT'S SAFE?
COMPLETELY. A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCE A SLIGHT ALLERGIC REACTION AROUND THE INJECTION SITE. SOME SWELLING AND REDNESS. BUT IT USUALLY PASSES WITHIN A DAY OR TWO.
IT FEELS HOT.
THAT'S JUST THE VACCINE ENTERING YOUR BLOODSTREAM.
MOM... IT REALLY HURTS.
OH MY GOD! WHAT IS HAPPENING?!
WHUUUAAAA!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?!
DOCTOR HOWARD...

THE CLOISTERS. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, NEW YORK.
THREE DAYS AGO.
"...SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!"
NOBODY HAD HEARD FROM THE NASTY BOYS IN YEARS, RIGHT? WHY WOULD THEY REAPPEAR NOW? AND WHY WOULD THEY DO IT SO CLUMSILY?
THERE'S NO LIMIT TO WHAT DESPERATE MEASURES PEOPLE WILL CONSIDER WHEN THEIR BACKS ARE TO THE WALL. IF THESE REALLY ARE THE LAST DAYS OF MUTANTS, CAN WE FAULT THEM FOR WANTING TO SUIT UP AND FIGHT BACK? WE'RE DOING THE SAME THING.
I THINK THINGS ARE GOING WORSE FOR THE NASTY BOYS...
WELL, THAT'S ONE MORE OFF OUR LIST...
DEFENSIVE FORMATIONS! WHATEVER KILLED THEM MIGHT STILL BE HERE!

WE ARE STILL HERE, YES.
CORTEZ?! WHY'D YOU KILL THEM? THEY DIDN'T DESERVE THAT.
HONESTLY? THEY WERE NOTHING MORE THAN BAIT.
AND THEY OUTLIVED THEIR PURPOSE.
SHINOBI SHAW. I KNEW I SMELLED A RAT.
OH, HAVOK. YOU WOUND ME. I KNEW YOU'D ALL COME RUNNING IF YOU THOUGHT THE NASTY BOYS WERE BACK. AND SURPRISE! THEY AREN'T.
AND THAT'S WHEN THE FUN BEGINS.
SIENA BLAZE. SO *THE UPSTARTS* HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY YOUR RIDICULOUS GAMES AGAIN? SEEMS LIKE A POOR TIME TO ATTACK MUTANTS FOR SPORT.
OH, I DON'T KNOW, SUMMERS. MS. MOONSTAR WAS RIGHT. THESE ARE THE LAST DAYS OF THE MUTANTS. AND WHAT BETTER GAME IS THERE THAN HUNTING THE *MOST* ENDANGERED AND *MOST* DANGEROUS OF ALL MUTANTS...*THE X-MEN?*
OKAY, FITZROY. YOU WANT A FIGHT? WE'RE HAPPY TO OBLIGE.

WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS HUNT THEIR OWN KIND?
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION, GIRL. ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU X-MEN HAVE BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE TIME?

YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, DEMON GIRL.
THEN WHY ARE YOU BACKING AWAY, SIENA?
DID YOU IDIOTS EVEN HAVE A PLAN HERE?
WHAM
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT OUR PSYCHIC SHIELDS WILL RENDER YOU USELESS IN THIS FIGHT, MS. MOONSTAR.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
HAVOK! YOU'RE STILL NOT RECOVERED FROM YOUR POWERS ALMOST TEARING YOU APART.
SO FAR, SO GOOD.

SUCH A YOUNG GIRL, SO POWERFUL. YET YOU WASTE IT, LITTLE RASPUTIN. WITH TRAINING YOU COULD BE OUR EQUAL, BUT INSTEAD WHAT DO YOU DO?
ZARK
I MADE FRIENDS.
EVOLUTION IS A FUNNY THING, ISN'T IT. YOU X-MEN NEVER THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS.
OUR GENES HAVE CHANGED-- ADAPTED TO HELP US SURVIVE.
BUT DID YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SURVIVE?
YOU'RE SURROUNDED, SHAW.
HUMANITY. WE WERE BUILT TO SURVIVE HUMANITY, AND WE FAILED.
THERE IS NO ADAPTATION THAT WILL STOP US FROM BEING CRUSHED UNDER THEIR BOOTS!
AND NOW THAT THEY USE US AS WEAPONS, THERE IS NO HOPE.
THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR ATTACKING YOUR FELLOW MUTANTS? HUMANITY IS COMING FOR US ANYWAY?
NO. I'M SURE YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT FROM THE BASTARD HELLFIRE CLUB. *FROM YOU.* WE'RE ALL HER CHESS PIECES NOW, BUT AT LEAST I CAN SAY I DID EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO KNOCK THE BOARD OVER. SHE WON'T GET HER NASTY BOYS...
...AND SHE WON'T GET ME.
TELL YOUR MASTER THAT SHINOBI SHAW NEVER KNELT.
WAIT--
SHUNK

HATCHI TOWERS. X-MEN HEADQUARTERS. MANHATTAN.
TWO DAYS AGO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN MAKE MYSELF SOUND STUPID ENOUGH FOR YOU ALL TO UNDERSTAND.
I FIXED IT.
FIXED WHAT?
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
THE DREADED VACCINE. THE MUTANT CURE. I HAVE RENDERED IT OBSOLETE.
YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH THE CONCEPT, I THINK THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT MIGHT OVERWHELM YOU.
TRY ME.
I TOOK MY SAMPLE OF THE VACCINE--
WHERE DID YOU GET A SAMPLE OF THE VACCINE?
SCOTTY GAVE IT TO ME.
YOU GAVE THIS MANIAC A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON THAT CAN BE USED AGAINST US?
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, IT ALREADY WAS USED AGAINST US. THE VACCINE IS IN USE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DEVELOPED WORLD. A GENERATION OF MUTANTS--MAYBE ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MUTANTS--HAS BEEN ERADICATED.
SO YOU THOUGHT, "HOW CAN I MAKE THIS WORSE?"
I THOUGHT THAT OUR BACKS ARE TO THE WALL AND EVERY OPTION SHOULD BE EXPLORED. I'D BE HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR PLAN, JAMIE.
NO, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. ARMING OUR PSYCHOTIC ENEMIES SEEMS LIKE THE WAY TO GO.

WHILE YOUR LACK OF FAITH IN ME HURTS, I WILL REMIND YOU THAT SCOTTY DIDN'T GIVE ME THE POWER TO ACTUALLY ACT ON THIS.
WARLOX HERE MONITORED ME 24 HOURS A DAY TO MAKE SURE OF THAT. I HAVE JUST WORKED TO GIVE YOU AN AVENUE OF ACTION.
FEEL FREE TO IGNORE IT IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME.
THANKS FOR YOUR PERMISSION, McCOY.
NOW THAT *THAT'S* SETTLED, WE SHOULD DISCUSS--
"SETTLED"?
YES. WE'RE NOT DOING... WHATEVER THIS IS.
I KNOW THE SUMMERS BROTHERS LIKE TO DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE ELSE, BUT I RECALL US SAYING THAT WE VOTE ON THINGS LIKE THIS, DON'T WE?
HOPE'S RIGHT, ALEX. WE CAN'T THROW OUT THE RULES BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME. WE HAVE TO VOTE ON THIS.
HE'S A MONSTER!
A MONSTER WHO CURED ILLYANA, SHAN AND MYSELF. AS PAINFUL AS IT MAY BE, WE HAVE TO BE EXAMINING EVERY OPTION AT THIS POINT.
THIS IS CRAZY.
I'M UNCOMFORTABLE WITH A LOT OF THIS MYSELF. BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS YET. LET'S HEAR McCOY'S PLAN AND GO FROM THERE. OKAY?
FINE. BUT YOU CAN COUNT MY VOTE AS A "HELL NO" RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY TONE BEFORE. I USE HUMOR AS A DEFENSE MECHANISM WHEN I FEEL VULNERABLE. BUT IT REALLY IS QUITE ELEGANT, IF I CAN SAY SO MYSELF.
THE VACCINE IS REALLY A SIMPLE VIRUS. IT ATTACHES ITSELF TO PROTEINS IN OUR GENES, SPECIFICALLY THE X-GENE, AND SMOTHERS THEM WHILE IT TRIES TO FEED. HARMLESS TO THE GENES OF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE ALREADY MUTATED, BUT DEADLY TO THE GENES OF CHILDREN IN THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT WHEN THEIR X-GENES ACTIVATE.
WHAT MY ANTI-VACCINE DOES IS ATTACH TO THEIR VIRUS BEFORE IT CAN ATTACH TO THE X-GENE. IT INHIBITS ITS ABILITY TO BOND. BASICALLY, I FEED THEIR VACCINE SO THAT IT DOESN'T SMOTHER THE X-GENE, LEAVING THEM FREE TO ACTIVATE.
I CAN SHOW YOU ALL THE DATA AND TESTS, BUT BASICALLY... I *CURED THE CURE.*

"ALL IT NEEDS NOW IS A DELIVERY SYSTEM."
"OH, I'M SURE WE CAN CONVINCE EVERY PARENT IN THE WORLD TO LET THEM INJECT THIS STUFF INTO THEIR KIDS."
"YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME AS ALWAYS, ALEX. I CREATED IT TO BE AN AIRBORNE, PHOTOSYNTHETIC, ASEXUALLY REPLICATING PROTEIN. NO ONE NEEDS TO INJECT IT ANYWHERE.
"IF PLACED IN A FEW KEY PLACES IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE AROUND THE GLOBE, WITHIN A WEEK THE VACCINE WILL NEVER WORK AGAIN.
"WE JUST NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN FLY."

THE HELLFIRE CLUB GARAGE. THE UPPER EAST SIDE.
NOW.
I KNOW YOU PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO MESSING WITH MY HEAD, EMMA--
WELL, I'VE GOT A PSYCHIC ON MY SIDE AND IT'S ALL COMING BACK NOW, SWEETHEART.
YOUR HEAD WAS A DISASTER BEFORE I GOT THERE, DARLING.
I'LL ADMIT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE MISS BRADDOCK'S SEXY SIDE COMING TO LIFE AND STICKING HER NOSE IN MY HANDIWORK.
YOU WERE AN X-MAN ONCE, RIGHT, EMMA? YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR CRAZY @#$% TO RUIN YOUR PLANS.
AND FOR PEOPLE TO COME LOOKING TO CUT YOUR HEAD OFF. I HOPE YOU GOT MORE THAN MYSTIQUE, MARROW AND ELIXIR TO PROTECT YOU.
OH, I DO.

RAAAAR!
LET OUR GUARDS DO THEIR JOB, WHITE KING.
THEY'RE GETTING MURDERED, EMMA.
THAT IS THEIR JOB.
<YOUR PLAN ENDS HERE>*
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.
I THOUGHT I'D LIKE YOU MORE WITHOUT THAT ANNOYING PRINCESS LIVING IN YOUR HEAD. BUT I DON'T.

<NICE STRIKE, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH.>
I CAN FEEL YOU TRYING TO PROBE MY MIND, TRYING TO PREDICT MY MOVES.
YOU'RE PROBABLY BETTER THAN ME NATURALLY...
...BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHEAT...
...I CAN MATCH YOU EVERY STEP.
OR I CAN JUST BECOME YOU.
INTERESTING. USUALLY BEING ATTACKED BY YOUR OWN BODY HAS MORE OF AN EFFECT.
MAYBE I JUST PICKED THE WRONG *YOU.*
THOUGHT SO!
SHUNK

I HAVE TO SAY, EMMA, I'VE LOVED WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING WITH YOUR LITTLE PUPPET SHOW. IT LOOKS FANTASTICALLY FUN. I'M SORRY IF MY GETTING INVOLVED COMPLICATED THINGS.
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO SPECTACULARLY BLUNDER THIS ON YOUR OWN. AND OH, HOW I LONGED TO WATCH THAT.
WHAT DID YOU DO, YOU PATHETIC LITTLE MAN?
CRSSH
THE REST OF THEM AREN'T WORTH YOUR TIME, ELIXIR. SAVE MARROW INSTEAD.
I GOTTA GO GUT YOUR BOSS.

HALT! THIS BUILDING AND ITS INHABITANTS ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE O.N.E.
CONGRATS, EMMA. DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DO IT, BUT THIS IS A NEW LOW.
RRRAAAAH!
ARRGH!
FWOOOOSH!

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK, MANHATTAN.
WE HAVE NO MORE LEADS. AFTER THE UPSTARTS INCIDENT, EVERYONE ELSE ON OUR LIST HAS VANISHED.
THEY'LL REAPPEAR.
AND IF THEY DON'T?
...I DON'T KNOW. I HATE TO DO IT, BUT MAYBE IT'S TIME I CALL ROGERS AND SEE IF HE HAS ANY INFORMATION.
DON'T BOTHER.
I THINK YOU KNOW, SCOTT.
STEVE...? DR. NEMESIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ACTUALLY I HAVE NO IDEA.
WHEN YOU CAME BACK, I WAS WORRIED. YOU'VE MADE RASH DECISIONS BEFORE, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE, BUT IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE CAPABLE OF THIS--
WE DIDN'T KILL THE NASTY BOYS OR SHAW. IT WAS A TRAP THEY SET FOR US.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE VACCINE. WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?
THE VACCINE WAS A HATE CRIME. IT WAS THE CHEMICAL STERILIZATION OF THE MUTANT RACE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD.
NOBODY ASKED THOSE KIDS IF THEY WANTED TO BE DENIED THE CHANCE TO BECOME WHO THEY REALLY ARE.

SO YOU'RE KILLING THEM TO TEACH US ALL A LESSON?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FIVE CHILDREN HAVE FALLEN INTO COMAS AFTER BEING VACCINATED IN THE LAST EIGHTEEN HOURS. I'VE EXAMINED THREE OF THEM. SOMETHING PUT INTO THE AIR IS CAUSING THIS REACTION. AND I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT.
THAT WASN'T WHAT WE INTENDED, CAPTAIN. I PROMISE YOU. YOUR HELP AND TRUST IN US OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE, AND WE'D ASK YOU TO TRUST US ONCE MORE--
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DANIELLE?
TAKING THE PRISONERS...? YOUR MEETINGS WITH SCOTT...?
I HAVEN'T SPOKEN WITH SUMMERS SINCE THAT RALLY AT EMPIRE STATE. AND IF I'D KNOWN THEN WHAT YOU ALL WERE CAPABLE OF I WOULD NEVER HAVE LET HIM WALK AWAY.
YOU CAME TO HARRY'S HIDEAWAY...
I DON'T KNOW ANY HARRY, BUT YOU SHOULD ALL KNOW THE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO TAKE--
MAGIK, GRAB NEMESIS AND GET US HOME NOW!
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EXCUSE ME? WHAT THE--
SHRACK

OUTSIDE THE HELLFIRE CLUB, MANHATTAN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CALLAHAN WANTS MR. SINISTER TRANSPORTED OFF-SITE RIGHT AWAY.
BUT WE'RE STILL--
TAKE IT UP WITH CALLAHAN.
WHERE'S PSYLOCKE?
SHE'S NOT PSYLOCKE, THEY JUST SHARED A BODY.
I DON'T KNOW. SHE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED IN THE COMMOTION AFTER YOUR STORMTROOPERS ARRIVED AND ROYALLY BOTCHED EVERYTHING.
THEY SAVED YOUR LIFE.
I WAS DOING JUST FINE.
AND MYSTIQUE? YOU KNEW SHE ESCAPED FROM MY CUSTODY WITH THE OTHER X-MEN. YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE HARBORED HER. WHERE IS SHE NOW?
I DON'T KNOW. SHE IS BEING PSYCHICALLY SHIELDED.
SO BE IT. I'M DONE PLAYING NICE, EMMA. I CAN'T TRUST YOU.
US
US
SECURE THIS BUILDING AND LOCK MS. FROST INSIDE WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HER. THE HELLFIRE CLUB IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE O.N.E.
THAT WASN'T OUR DEAL, CALLAHAN!
WE NEVER HAD A DEAL. DEALS IMPLY THAT BOTH PARTIES WIELD SOME SORT OF POWER. YOU EXIST BY THE GRACE OF ME. IT WOULD DO YOU GOOD TO REMEMBER THAT.

WE'RE GETTING WORD NOW OF A POSSIBLE SIXTH CHILD TO HAVE FALLEN ILL AFTER RECEIVING THE VACCINATION. WE GO NOW TO TED ALEXANDER LIVE IN--
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I WAS JUST TRYING TO CATCH UP ON MY SHOWS. DO YOU KNOW IF THE NEW SEASON OF *FARGO* HAS STARTED?
NO MORE GAMES! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
WHAT DID I--? I DID WHAT YOU ASKED. I MADE IT SO PARENTS WILL NEVER AGAIN SUBJECT THEIR CHILDREN TO THAT HORRIBLE SOLUTION. IT STANDS IN THE WAY OF EVOLUTION, AND WE HATE IT.
AFTER THEY'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO OUR CONCOCTION, WHICH ACCORDING TO MY AIRSTREAM MODELS HAS NOW HAPPENED TO 98% OF THE WORLD, OUR LITTLE PROTEIN BONDS WITH THEIR BIG BAD MEDICATION AND SHUTS IT DOWN. HARMLESS. MOSTLY.
BUT SOMETIMES A CHILD'S X-GENE WILL ACTUALLY ACTIVATE WHILE THE SERUM TAKES EFFECT. AND THEN IT WORKS AS A CATALYST TO HELP THE PROTEIN REPLICATE INSIDE OF THEM.
BASICALLY, WE MADE IT SO SOME OF THE LITTLE MUTANTS' ORGANS GO INTO OVERDRIVE AND THEY SLIP INTO COMAS.
WE'VE GIVEN PARENTS A CHOICE. INJECT YOUR KIDS AND, IF THEY *ARE* MUTANTS, THEY'LL PROBABLY DIE. WE WILL FINALLY SEE HOW PURE THEIR HATRED OF US REALLY IS.
AS FOR HOW, ALL I NEEDED WAS A LITTLE HELP FROM MR. SINISTER. WHEN HE VISITED ME IN WESTCHESTER, HE LOOKED OVER MY WORK AND SAW WHAT I COULD NOT. HE ADDED THE MISSING PIECE.
THEN ALL IT TOOK WAS HIM OFFERING SOME SUBCONSCIOUS SUGGESTIONS TO ALL OF YOU, AND WE WERE OFF TO THE RACES WITH THIS PLAN.

WE DID GREAT WORK THIS WEEK, X-MEN. WE ARE A GREAT TEAM. ALTHOUGH I MIGHT SUGGEST THAT GOING FORWARD WE GET ANOTHER PSYCHIC TO SHIELD YOU.
WITHOUT JEAN, RACHEL OR BETSY, IT SEEMS AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MUCKING AROUND IN YOUR HEADS THESE DAYS.
ENOUGH.
SHRACK
ILLYANA, DON'T!
WHERE ARE YOU SENDING ME, WITCH?!
SHUNK
GOOD LORD, ILLYANA!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
HE TRICKED US INTO KILLING CHILDREN. WHAT'S WRONG WITH *YOU?*
THEY'RE NOT DEAD YET.
McCOY ISN'T--SORRY-- *WASN'T* AS SMART AS HE THOUGHT. I CAN FIX THIS. I'LL NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY, BUT I CAN DO IT.
GOOD. WHATEVER YOU NEED TO HELP THOSE KIDS WE'LL... WE...
SCOTT? ARE YOU OKAY?
SCOTT, IT'S EMMA. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU YOUR MEMORIES BACK NOW. PLEASE DON'T GET MAD AT ME, LOVER. I'M SORRY, SCOTT, BUT I NEED YOU NOW.
I NEED THE X-MEN.

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We Have Always Been Part 5

"YOU WERE RIGHT. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THIS MAY BE THE LAST X-MEN STORY. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER I SHOULD SAY I'M SORRY OR YOU'RE WELCOME."

THE HELLFIRE CLUB. THE UPPER EAST SIDE. MANHATTAN.
YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?
EMMA IS IN THERE. WE NEED TO GET TO HER.
SCOTT, ARE WE TRYING TO *HELP* HER OR ARE WE TRYING TO *STOP* HER?
...WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE NONE OF YOU REMEMBERED HER BEFORE. SHE WAS, LIKE, A PRETTY BIG DEAL FOR YOU ALL. SCOTT WAS, LIKE, ALWAYS ALL OVER HER LIKE--
WE GET IT.
DANI, TAKE THE ONE ON THE LEFT. HOPE, ON THE RIGHT. I GOT MIDDLE...
FWIP
ZARK
BLAM

HIDE THE GUARDS. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE SO WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY AND QUIETLY. ON MY SIGNAL WE OPEN THE DOOR--
IT'S CLEAR.
T CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE L
SO MUCH FOR WAITING FOR MY SIGNAL.
I THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO BE QUICK?
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO STAB EMMA TOO, DID YOU, 'YANA?
ALEX, THIS IS A RESCUE MISSION...
...FOR NOW.

NOT THE ROMANTIC RESPONSE I WAS HOPING FOR, DARLING.
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE FOR BEING RESCUED.
OTHER OPTION IS STILL ON THE TABLE.

HOTEL ROMEO. SECRET O.N.E. FACILITY. MEDICAL WING.
WE GOT FOUR MORE COMING IN!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
THE X-MEN HAPPENED.
PRISONER WOKE UP IN TRANSPORT AND TORE US APART.
MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU MAKE SURE HE'S REALLY DOWN BEFORE YOU START MOVING HIM, OKAY, LIEUTENANT?
AND WHERE THE HELL IS MY HEALER KID?
MY *NAME* IS TRIAGE.
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, CHRISTOPHER. THE FASTER YOU LET GO OF THAT NONSENSE, THE EASIER ALL OF THIS WILL BE FOR YOU. NOW LET'S GET TO WORK.
I WANT ALL THESE PATIENTS ASSESSED BEFORE YOU BEGIN HEALING THEM, CHRISTOPHER.
I DON'T WANT TO OVERTAX YOUR ABILITIES ON NON-LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES IF WE CAN AVOID IT. MY TEAM AND I WILL--
WHAT ARE YOU... STOP! NOT HIM!
WHY THE *HELL* IS THAT *THING* EVEN IN MY E.R.?
CALLAHAN SAID WE CAN'T LET HIM DIE.

YOU TRYING TO BE CLEVER HERE, KID? YOU THOUGHT WHAT? YOU'D HEAL HIM AND HE'D SAVE YOU? THAT IT?
WE SAVED YOU. THE DAMNED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF SOMETHING THAT MATTERS.
I ALREADY AM. I'M AN X-MAN.
STILL TRYING TO BE A HERO, HUH? YOU FORGET ABOUT WHAT WE PUT INSIDE OF YOU? ONE PUSH OF THIS BUTTON AND YOU'RE BACK TO JUST BEING A NORMAL HUMAN @#$%-UP. SO KEEP TESTING ME, SON.
PTOO
AHHHH!
BEEP
WRONG CHOICE, KID.
WE NEEDED THAT KID. CALLAHAN IS GONNA HAVE BOTH OF OUR ASSES FOR THIS.
RELAX, LIEUTENANT. YOU PICKED UP THE OTHER HEALER FROM FROST, RIGHT? WE DON'T NEED REDUNDANCIES. BRING HIM IN FROM THE TRANSPORTS AND WE'LL GET TO WORK.
WE'LL BE FINE.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, MY LOVE. I KNEW YOU'D--
EMMA, DON'T.
VERY WELL. WE WILL TALK IN PRIVATE LATER. FOR NOW, I SEE YOU DIDN'T BRING WHAT I ASKED FOR.
THE THING WHERE YOU TELL US WHAT TO DO? THAT'S OVER.
SCOTT, I KNOW YOU USED TO LOVE HER, BUT IF SHE DOESN'T START EXPLAINING WHY SHE MESSED AROUND IN OUR HEADS, I'M GOING TO BLAST THIS EVIL #$%& THROUGH A WALL.
NO. STAND DOWN!
I WOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO FORGO FORGIVENESS, ALEXANDER.
THE LAST TIME WE WERE ALL TOGETHER, SCOTT AND I WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOU. BECAUSE, AS I RECALL, YOU WERE THE "EVIL #$%&" IN THAT SCENARIO.
EMMA, I'M TRYING NOT TO MAKE THIS WORSE!
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, SCOTT. I'M A BIG GIRL. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF JUST FINE. I'D SHUT HIS BRAIN DOWN BEFORE HE COULD DO ANYTHING.
AND THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YOU.
EVEN ME?

AH, *HOPE.* THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER RETURNS, AND USING MY OWN POWERS TO PSYCHICALLY SHIELD HERSELF FROM ME.
COLOR ME IMPRESSED. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO SCOTT'S FACE.
FUNNY. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING THE SAME THING TO YOU.
NOT TODAY, SWEETIE.
EVERYONE CALM DOWN. SHE'S WITH ME.
WITH YOU ALL TAKING CARE OF OUR O.N.E. PROBLEM, I DECIDED TO LET MYSELF IN.
AND I BROUGHT A FRIEND.
THANK YOU, RAVEN.
QUITE THE CROWD YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING WITH, FROST.
I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU...

"IT SEEMS WE'VE ALL HAD OUR BACKS TO THE WALL LATELY."
RAAAAHH!
SNIFF SNIFF
DEAR GOD...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...

LOGAN?
SHOW YOURSELF...
LOGAN, IT'S ME...
I KNOW YOU?
IT'S GABRIEL... VELOCIDAD. WE WERE ON THE X-MEN TOGETHER ONCE...
WHAT DID THEY...WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY'VE HAD ME PRISONER HERE THIS WHOLE TIME...NOBODY CAME FOR ME ALL THESE YEARS...
I SAW YOU IN THE SEWERS A MONTH AGO...
A MONTH...? THAT CAN'T BE. OH. MY POWERS...
THEY HAVE BEEN USING GABESELF TO GROW MULTIPLE WARLOCKS.
GABESELF IS AN INCUBATOR SO THEY CAN PRODUCE WARLOCKS THAT REACH MATURITY MUCH FASTER. NORMALLY IT TAKES HUNDREDS OF ROTATIONS AROUND EARTH-SOL.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY--
I WON'T SURVIVE. THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING ME ALIVE.
NO, JUST TELL BLINDFOLD I'M SORRY I DIDN'T BELIEVE HER. TELL HER SHE WAS RIGHT.
I WILL, KID.
SNIKT

ALL RIGHT. I OWE YOU ALL AN EXPLANATION.
YES, I REMOVED MYSELF FROM YOUR MEMORIES.
I GAVE THE SLIGHTEST OF NUDGES, SUBCONSCIOUS SUGGESTIONS, TO HELP STEER YOU IN SOME DIRECTIONS THAT I NEEDED.
AND THAT'S *ALL* YOU DID IN OUR HEADS?
WHAT NUDGES?
WHERE TO FIND EACH OTHER. WHO TO PUT ON YOUR LITTLE LIST OF TARGETS. THAT SORT OF THING. BUT I HAD A GOOD REASON. I WAS CAPTURED BY THE O.N.E. AND FORCED TO WORK FOR THEM.
SO YOU MADE *US* WORK FOR *YOU?*
THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME, MS. RASPUTIN. WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE?
NOT DRAGGING US DOWN WITH YOU?
NOW, WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
CAN WE KILL HER NOW?
WE LOST PEOPLE, EMMA. WE HANDED MUTANTS OVER TO THEM. WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!
I WAS THINKING I COULD KEEP YOU SAFE, SCOTT SUMMERS. BUT YOU HAD TO GO AND MAKE A BIG SCENE AND LET THE WHOLE WORLD SEE YOU. AND I WAS THINKING I'D FIND A WAY TO SAVE US. ALL OF US. *MUTANTS.*
AND I DID.
IF THIS IS A TRICK--
YES, YES. YOU'LL SHOOT ME IN THE FACE. READ AWAY, LOVE.

MY GOD!
EMMA, SHOW THEM.
AS YOU WISH.
WAIT... WHAT'S GOING ON?
WOW...I...DID NOT EXPECT THAT.
I'M NOT SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA.
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
THE GAME IS UP, DEAR. THE O.N.E. IS COMING FOR ALL OF US NOW. I CAN'T PROTECT YOU ANYMORE AND YOU CAN'T PROTECT ME. WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
WILL IT WORK?
WITH YOUR HELP.
WE HAVE TO TRY, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY ANYMORE.
WE ALL SAW THE PLAN. I SAY WE VOTE NOW. ALL IN FAVOR?
THE AYES HAVE IT.
EXCELLENT. IN ADDITION TO OUR GUEST, SINISTER, HERE, I'M GOING TO NEED A FEW THINGS. YOU STILL HAVE FABIAN CORTEZ IN YOUR LITTLE HEADQUARTERS? I'LL NEED HIM. AND YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING ME BACK ELIXIR.

I KNOW YOU BROUGHT US TO THE RIGHT PLACE, MAGIK. SO NEXT QUESTION--WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
SHRACK
OH.
RAAAAAAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT--
BOOOM!

X-MEN! CONCENTRATE ALL FIRE ON THAT THING!
NOOOOO!

FOOM!
BANSHEE!
BANSHEE! GET UP!
MAGIK! HE'S GONE! WE'VE GOT TO GO!
ILLYANA...
IT'S OVER. I'M SORRY.
OH, ILLYANA. WELCOME BACK TO THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. I'D PUT THAT SWORD DOWN IF I WERE YOU. IF NOT FOR YOUR FRIENDS' SAKES, THEN FOR YOUR OWN.
YOU MIGHT NOT RECALL, BUT LAST TIME YOU WERE WITH US I HAD A LITTLE DEVICE PUT INSIDE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. YOU RAN AWAY BEFORE I COULD USE IT THEN. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK IN RANGE, I CAN MAKE THE MUTANT PART OF YOU CEASE TO EXIST.
AND YOU THINK THAT WILL MAKE ME LESS DANGEROUS, OLD MAN?

SO BE IT, YOU SILLY GIRL.
GUUUH!
WHAT THE...?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?!
CALLAHAN, YOU IDIOT! ILLYANA'S MUTANT SIDE WAS THE ONLY THING HOLDING IT BACK...
KUUUHHHH!
OPEN FIRE!
ᛗᛊᚱᚨᛁᚺᚲ
ᚷᚺᚲᚨᚱᛊᛉᚲᚺᚦ
ᛗᛟᛊᚢᛉᛎᛗ

CODE RED! CODE RED! EVACUATE THE FACILITY!
ILLYANA? ARE YOU IN THERE?
ᚠᛁᛕᚷᛖᛊᚱ ᚺᛕᚨᚱᛊᛉᛕᚺᚦ ᛖᛜᛊᚢᛉᛇ
FORGET THIS! I'M NOT WAITING FOR THAT THING TO TRY TO KILL ME!
CAIN, WAIT--
ᚢᛉᛇᛖ ᛕᚷᚺᛕᚨᚱᛊ ᛉᛕᚺᚦᛖᛜᛊ ᛖᛊᚱᚨᛁᚺ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AHHHH!
CYTTORAK.

JAMIES, GET HOPE AND LOGAN OUT OF HERE. I'LL HOLD IT OFF AS LONG AS I CAN!
MAGIK... I HAVE HER...
C'MON, HOPEY. TIME TO RUN FROM THE DEMON THAT LIVED INSIDE OUR FRIEND!
WHAT IS THIS, NOW?
I HAVE HER POWERS.
GET US OUT OF HERE

MANHATTAN.
THIS IS BAD. YOU RECOGNIZE THAT, RIGHT?
IF YOU UNCHAIN ME I COULD FIGHT TOO! THEY KILLED MY ASSOCIATES BACK THERE!
I PREFER TO KEEP IT TO ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, CORTEZ!
SELFFRIENDS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LOSE THEM AS SELFFRIENDS PLANNED.
LET'S JUST HOPE WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB AND HOLD THEM OFF FROM THERE WHILE EMMA DOES HER THING WITH CORTEZ HERE.
OR NOT! WE GOT A PLAN B?
FWOOM!

COME ON! THEIR REINFORCEMENTS AREN'T FAR BEHIND. NEMESIS, GET CORTEZ INSIDE NOW. EMMA IS WAITING FOR YOU BOTH.
THE REST OF YOU ARE WITH US. EMMA CONFIRMED THEY'VE EVACUATED EVERYONE WITHIN A MILE OF US. SO ANYONE YOU SEE NOW IS TRYING TO PUT US DOWN. NOBODY GETS INTO THAT BUILDING.
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
OUR MISSION WENT SIDEWAYS. COULDN'T FIND ELIXIR. WE FOUND WOLVERINE BUT HE AND HOPE ARE WOUNDED INSIDE.
WHAT?!
NOBODY ELSE MADE IT.
WHEN THIS IS OVER WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME WORDS, SCOTT.
IF WE'RE BOTH STILL ALIVE WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU CAN SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT. BUT THEY'RE COMING. SO FOR NOW...
...HOLD THE LINE, X-MEN!

THEY'RE ALL FROZEN! WHY'D THEY STOP?
WHAT DO WE DO?

SIR, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? LEMME HELP YOU UP.
I CAN GET UP MYSELF...
OF COURSE, SIR. HAVE A NICE DAY.
IS THIS IT? DID IT REALLY WORK?
I DON'T KNOW...
I DID IT.
THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE US. THEY CAN'T SEE WHAT WE REALLY ARE. AND THEY DON'T REMEMBER US.
AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE WORLD AT LARGE HAS NEVER EVEN HEARD OF MUTANTS. WE NEVER EXISTED.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

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We Have Always Been Part 6

"WE DID IT."

"GET OUT OF MY HEAD EMMA."

"BUT IT'S OVER, SCOTT. THIS IS WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN WORKING FOR. THIS IS OUR FUTURE. THIS IS...FOREVER."

"YOU REALLY THINK WE WON, DON'T YOU?"

CENTRAL PARK. MANHATTAN.
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
SURE. I JUST CAME OUT HERE TO CLEAR MY HEAD A BIT.
IS IT CLEAR?
NOT EXACTLY, NO.
DID YOU KNOW THE SQUIRRELS IN THE CITY ARE PHYSICALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SQUIRRELS? THEY HAVE SHORTER TEETH AND LESS BODY FAT.
IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T RELY ON FINDING FOOD IN THE WILD. THEY EAT WHAT HUMANS THROW AWAY. THEY SURVIVE ON OUR GARBAGE, SO THEIR BODIES HAVE ADAPTED TO HELP THEM DO THAT. IT SOUNDS AWFUL, BUT ADAPTATION LIKE THAT IS ONE OF THE TENETS OF EVOLUTION.
SCOTT, WE NEED TO TALK.
ON A MICRO LEVEL, EVOLUTION SEEMS RANDOM. TRAITS CHANGING AND EVOLVING. BUT ON THE MACRO LEVEL, THERE IS NOTHING RANDOM ABOUT IT AT ALL. IT'S A WAR FOUGHT OVER GENERATIONS. SPECIES FIGHTING AND STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE.
I USED TO WONDER WHY WE ALL HAD DIFFERENT POWERS. WHY WEREN'T WE ALL ICY LIKE BOBBY OR AGILE LIKE HANK? SURELY IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE COULD ALL FLY LIKE WARREN OR READ MINDS LIKE JEAN... ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN SHOOTING BEAMS OUT OF YOUR EYES, RIGHT?

MY POWERS... ARE DESTRUCTIVE BY NATURE. THE OTHERS WERE GIVEN GIFTS. I WAS GIVEN A WEAPON. IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO REALIZE THAT IT WASN'T ABOUT BEING COOL OR GRACEFUL. WE WERE, ON A GENETIC LEVEL, FIGHTING TO SURVIVE. I'M THE ONE WHO DID.
I BEAT THE ODDS.
WHAT ODDS?
SEVEN BILLION TO ONE. HUMANITY. EVERY SINGLE MUTANT IS GIVEN A SINGLE TOOL TO HELP THEM SURVIVE HUMANITY.
OR WE WERE. MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW? WHATEVER THE HELL EMMA DID... THEY CAN'T TELL WE'RE MUTANTS.
THEY CAN'T SEE OUR GIFTS. APPARENTLY, THEY DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MUTANTS EXISTED ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW, DANI. AND I DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN FOR THIS. I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE LEARNING HOW TO FIGHT. I NEVER LEARNED WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THE WAR ENDS.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, DANI?
WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE. HELP PEOPLE.
SCOTT, CAN YOU STOP FOR A SECOND? I NEED TO KNOW.... IS IT TRUE WHAT LOGAN SAID? DID BLINDFOLD TELL YOU NOT TO PUT THE X-MEN BACK TOGETHER BEFORE SHE DIED?
IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT. YOU KNEW HER.
I DID.

I WAS A VALKYRIE ONCE, YOU KNOW. I CARRIED THE SOULS OF THE DEAD.
DO YOU FEEL THEIR WEIGHT ON YOU, SCOTT? BLINDFOLD? RAHNE? ILLYANA?
EVERY DAY.
BUT HERE YOU STILL ARE, RIGHT? AND NOW YOU GET TO MOVE ON. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR HAPPY LIFE WITH EMMA.
THAT'S NOT FAIR, DANI.
ISN'T IT? LOOK AT US. LOOK WHO'S LEFT. EVERYONE WHO DIDN'T QUITE FIT IN, EVERYONE WHO STOOD OUT, THEY'RE ALL GONE. AND HERE WE ARE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK THIS IS ABOUT? WHO COULD PASS FOR HUMAN? YOU THINK I *PLANNED* THIS? YOU THINK I WOULDN'T TRADE MY LIFE TO BRING ANY ONE OF THEM BACK RIGHT NOW?
NO. I KNOW YOU WOULD.
BUT THAT'S NOT AN OPTION. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE SCOTT SUMMERS STORY. OR THE SCOTT AND JEAN STORY. OR SCOTT AND LOGAN.
WE ALL THOUGHT YOU WERE LEADING US TO SAFETY, FIGHTING TO HELP US ALL SURVIVE. BUT REALLY WE WERE JUST THE SUPPORTING CAST TO GET YOU HERE, WEREN'T WE?
HOW DARE YOU? THEY WERE SOLDIERS FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE. I WISH WE HADN'T LOST ANY OF THEM, BUT THEY KNEW WHAT THIS WAS.
I GUESS I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, SCOTT.
YOU LOST SOLDIERS. I LOST SISTERS. AND BROTHERS.
I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING. YOU CAN COME OUT.
YOU COME TO YELL AT ME TOO, ALEX?

NO, I THINK DANI PRETTY MUCH COVERED THE BASES ON THAT. I JUST WANTED TO WATCH YOU FEED THE RATS OR WHATEVER. IT'S NOT DEPRESSING AT ALL.
SHE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW? PEOPLE ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF ME. AND NOTHING I DO OR SAY WILL FIX THAT.
THAT'S WHAT BEING A LEADER IS THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
LOOK, WE DON'T NEED TO COMPARE RÉSUMÉS HERE. YES, I WAS AN AVENGER.
AND A VILLAIN.
AND AN AVENGER. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS, EVERYTHING I LEARNED ABOUT BEING A LEADER, BEING A TEAMMATE, HELL, BEING A GOOD PERSON... I LEARNED FROM *YOU.*
I GET THAT THE WHOLE "SELF-DOUBT, SELF-PITY" THING IS SORT OF YOUR TRADEMARK, BUT IT SUCKS.
THIS IS YOU HELPING?
THE EXPECTATIONS ON US, THE HATRED, THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST, WE CAN'T EVER FORGET ANY OF THAT. WE CAN'T EVER TURN OUR BACKS ON IT.
BUT YOU CAN'T LET IT DRAG YOU DOWN EITHER. WE PRESS ON. FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T.

DID YOU EVER WONDER "WHY *ME?*" WHY THE PROFESSOR CHOSE ME TO LEAD THE TEAM OVER EVERYONE ELSE?
LITERALLY EVERY SINGLE DAY.
I USED TO THINK IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO NEVER DOUBTED WHAT WE WERE DOING. THE PROFESSOR SAW THAT I HAD WHAT IT TOOK TO SEE OUR MISSION THROUGH...
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT ME ANYMORE.
IT'S A NEW DAY, SCOTT. IT'S MAYBE A WHOLE NEW WORLD. SO MAYBE FOR ONCE YOU DON'T NEED TO BE THAT GUY.
LOOK AT THIS. NO ONE NOTICES. WE CAN LIVE NORMAL LIVES NOW. THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WE EXIST ANYMORE.
SO THAT'S IT? WE'RE BACK TO HIDING AGAIN?
IT BEATS DYING, DOESN'T IT?

THE HELLFIRE CLUB. THE UPPER EAST SIDE. MANHATTAN.
STOP EAVESDROPPING, EMMA.
DOCTOR NEMESIS, I ASSURE YOU I WASN'T EAVESDROPPING. I HAVE MANIPULATED THE MEMORIES AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE ENTIRE PLANET. YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT TAKES SOME FINE-TUNING.
JUST ADMIT YOU WERE TRYING TO READ SUMMERS' MIND. I DON'T CARE. I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE.
YES?
DARK BEAST'S ANTI-VACCINE VACCINE HAS BEEN DEALT WITH. I HAD IT DELIVERED TO THE AVENGERS A FEW MINUTES AGO. IF ALL GOES WELL THE CHILDREN IN COMAS SHOULD BE ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY WITHIN THE HOUR.
I HAVE TO SAY, IT WAS QUITE A CLEVER BIT OF WORK ON McCOY'S PART.
IF HE WAS SO CLEVER HE WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED UP AS PART OF A WALL.
THEIR VACCINE IS UNUSABLE NOW. THE EULOGY OF THE MUTANT RACE WAS GIVEN A BIT PREMATURE. SO McCOY'S PLAN WORKED...WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOURS.
MY CEREBRO WORKED PERFECTLY.
I MEANT YOUR PLAY TO WIN BACK YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND. OR ARE WE--
AHHHH!
OH GOOD. MORE PROBLEMS.

ARE YOU KEEPING SINISTER DOWN HERE?! WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE TO HIM.
LOGAN!
GRRRR!
FOUL BEAST!

OUT OF THE WAY, NEMESIS. SHE'S NEXT.
CAN'T DO THAT, "*BUB.*" FOR BETTER OR WORSE THE LADY IS ON OUR SIDE HERE.
AIN'T ABOUT SIDES. FROST HAS PLAYED IN MY HEAD ONE TIME TOO MANY.
SHE SAVED OUR LIVES, LOGAN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
THAT EXPLOSION...YOU INHALED A CHEMICAL THAT PUT YOU IN A COMA AND SLOWED DOWN YOUR HEALING FACTOR. HIT MY POWERS TOO. BUT THEY'RE COMING BACK.
WE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO COUNTERACT THE POISON IN YOUR BODY--NEMESIS, SINISTER AND I. A FACT I'M SURE SINISTER REGRETS NOW.
ALTHOUGH THE CLONE DISSOLVING ALL OVER MY SHOES TELLS ME WE WEREN'T DEALING WITH THE *ACTUAL* SINISTER. WHAT A VILE MAN HE IS.
EVERYTHING'S CHANGED NOW, LOGAN. EMMA'S PLAN WORKED. WE DID IT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ALL THE MUTANTS YOU BROUGHT ME, THEY HELPED ME BUILD MY CEREBRO. AND CORTEZ AND SINISTER HELPED AMPLIFY MY POWERS.
HUMANS WON'T HURT US ANYMORE. THEY DON'T KNOW WE EXIST.
FROST, IF YOU THINK IT'S ALL OVER...

"...YOU'RE AN EVEN BIGGER MORON THAN I THOUGHT."
IF THIS REALLY WORKS, THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO...
...IS...
KNOWN TARGET DETECTED.
KNOWN TARGET DETECTED.

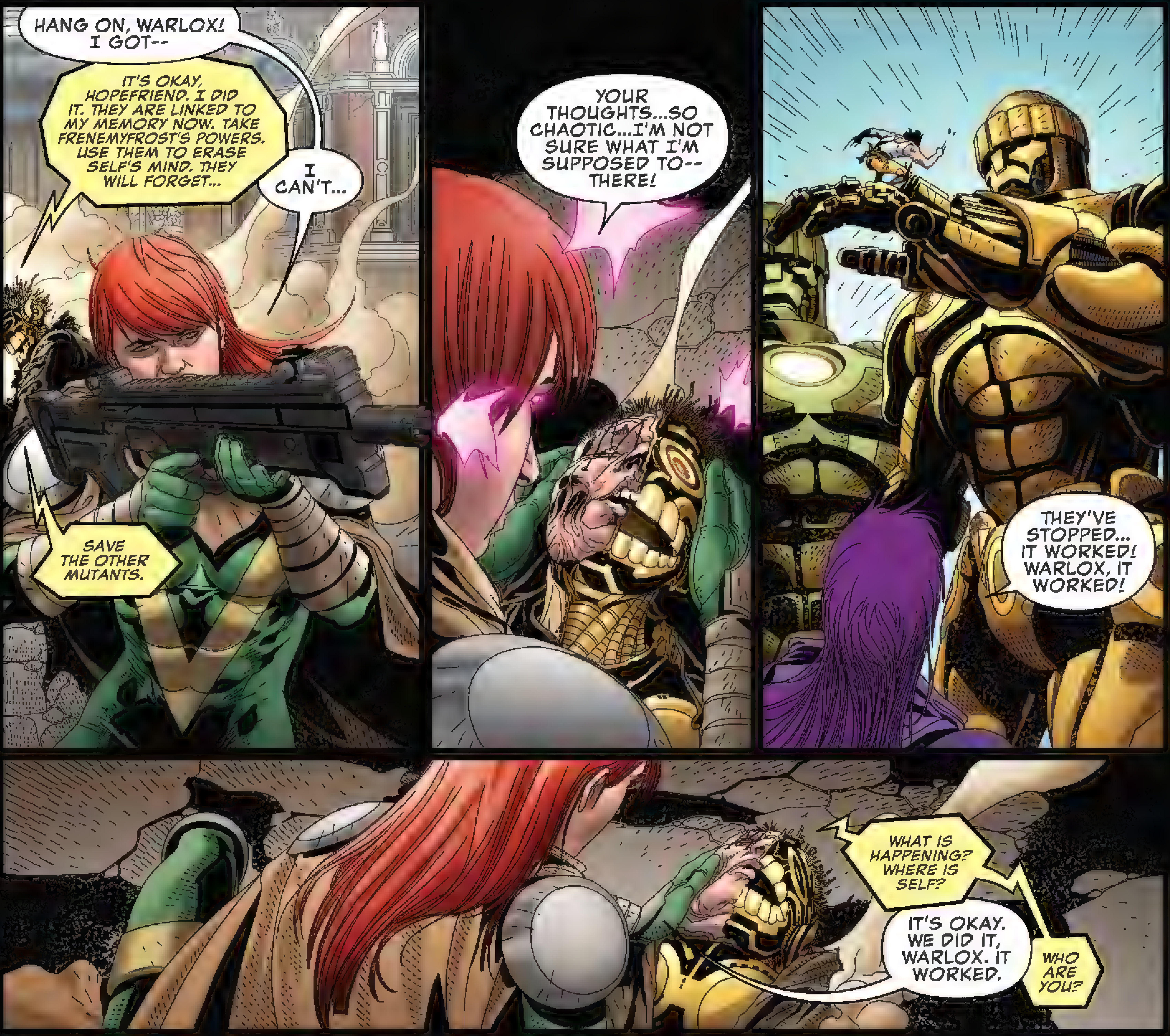
I THOUGHT EMMA WORKED ALL THIS OUT.
APPARENTLY NOT.
I'M BARELY MAKING A DENT HERE.
FWOOM!
SCOTT!
NO, ALEX... RUN.
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.
WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE HELLFIRE CLUB MANSION. MAYBE IF WE--
WE WOULDN'T MAKE IT.
WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER I USED TO THINK IT WAS SO WEIRD THAT OUR POWERS COULDN'T HURT EACH OTHER. WHY WOULD THAT BE, YA KNOW?
WHAT ARE YOU... ALEX, POWER DOWN. YOU'LL TEAR YOURSELF APART. THE DEVICE CALLAHAN IMPLANTED IS STILL MAKING YOUR POWERS HARD TO REGULATE.
YEAH, THAT'S WHERE HE SCREWED UP.

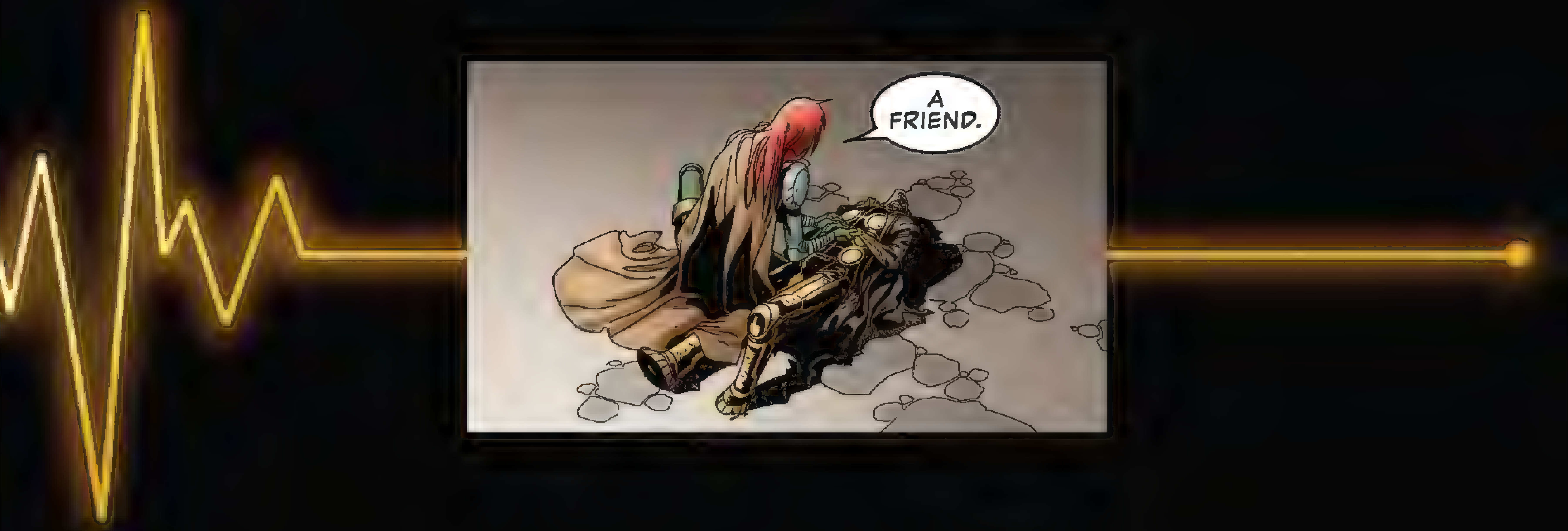
SCOTT, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BEST OF US. DON'T LET ME BE WRONG, OKAY?
ALEX!

SHWOOOOM!
WHAT IS THAT?
NOTHING GOOD.
I'M GETTING THE FEELING YOUR MACHINE DIDN'T DO WHAT IT PROMISED, FROST.
IT SEEMS YOU UNDERESTIMATED ME AGAIN, EMMA. DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD MAKE ME FORGET YOU?
I'M QUITE IMPRESSED WITH WHAT YOU MANAGED TO BUILD UNDER MY NOSE THOUGH. MAKING EVERY SINGLE PERSON ON EARTH ONLY SEE AND THINK WHAT YOU WANT? I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND NOW WHY NOBODY CARED THAT I WAS HUNTING YOUR KIND.
I'M AFRAID THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I UNDERESTIMATE YOU.
I SEE YOU UPGRADED YOUR LITTLE HEADSET, GENERAL.
SORRY YOU COULDN'T ERASE YOURSELF FROM MY MIND SO EASILY?
NO, I'M JUST SURPRISED YOU CAME HERE SO WE COULD DEAL WITH YOU IN PERSON.
NO, I CAME TO WATCH YOU DIE, EMMA.
CLICK
FOREVER ONE STEP BEHIND, GENERAL.
I HAD YOUR LITTLE BOMB REMOVED FROM MY SKULL.
THEN WE'LL DO THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

EMMA, DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE BACKUP PLANS FOR DEALING WITH YOU WHEN THE TIME CAME? YOU'RE THE MOST DUPLICITOUS CREATURE I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED. IS THERE EVEN A TERM FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU?
SURVIVOR.
WE'LL SEE.
AFTER MY SENTINELS DESTROY YOU, I'LL DESTROY WHATEVER THIS DEVICE IS YOU BUILT. JUST KNOW THAT YOU SOLD OUT YOUR PEOPLE FOR NOTHING.
HALT! SELF RECOGNIZES SELF. YOU ARE PIECES OF SELF.
PLEASE, DO NOT HURT SELFFRIENDS.
SELF WILL RECLAIM PIECES OF SELF.

FWOOOM!
ATTEMPTED SYSTEM OVERRIDE DETECTED. DESTROY KNOWN TARGET.
UHHH...
X-MEN ATTACK!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR PLAN, FROST.
THEY'RE MOSTLY MACHINE. I CAN'T CONTROL THEM.
I WAS GONE FOR HALF AN HOUR!
SHOULDA STAYED GONE, KID.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS AND YOU KNOW IT.


HANG ON, WARLOX! I GOT--
IT'S OKAY, HOPEFRIEND. I DID IT. THEY ARE LINKED TO MY MEMORY NOW. TAKE FRENEMYFROST'S POWERS. USE THEM TO ERASE SELF'S MIND. THEY WILL FORGET...
I CAN'T...
SAVE THE OTHER MUTANTS.
YOUR THOUGHTS...SO CHAOTIC...I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO-- THERE!
THEY'VE STOPPED... IT WORKED! WARLOX, IT WORKED!
WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHERE IS SELF?
IT'S OKAY. WE DID IT, WARLOX. IT WORKED.
WHO ARE YOU?

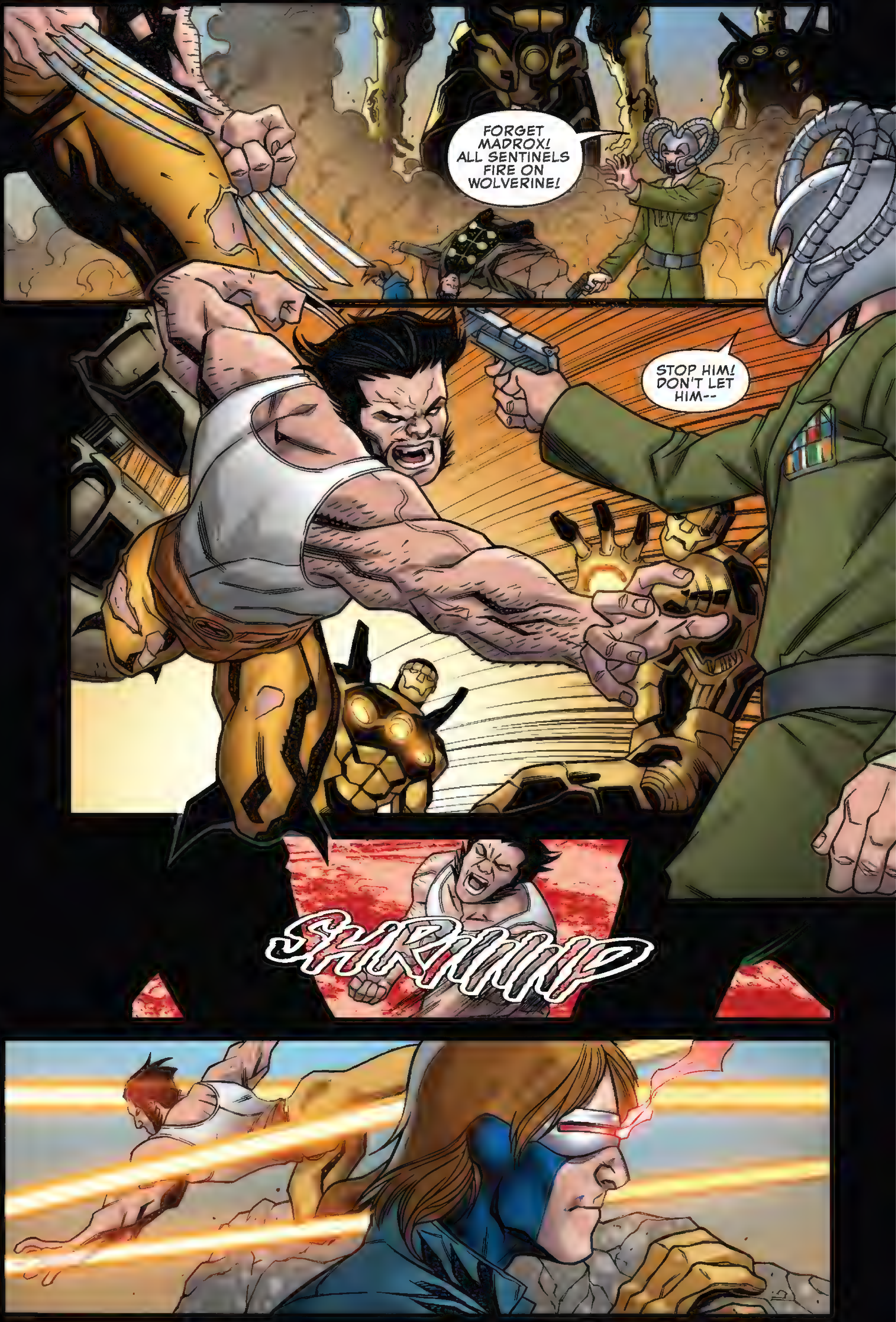

A FRIEND.

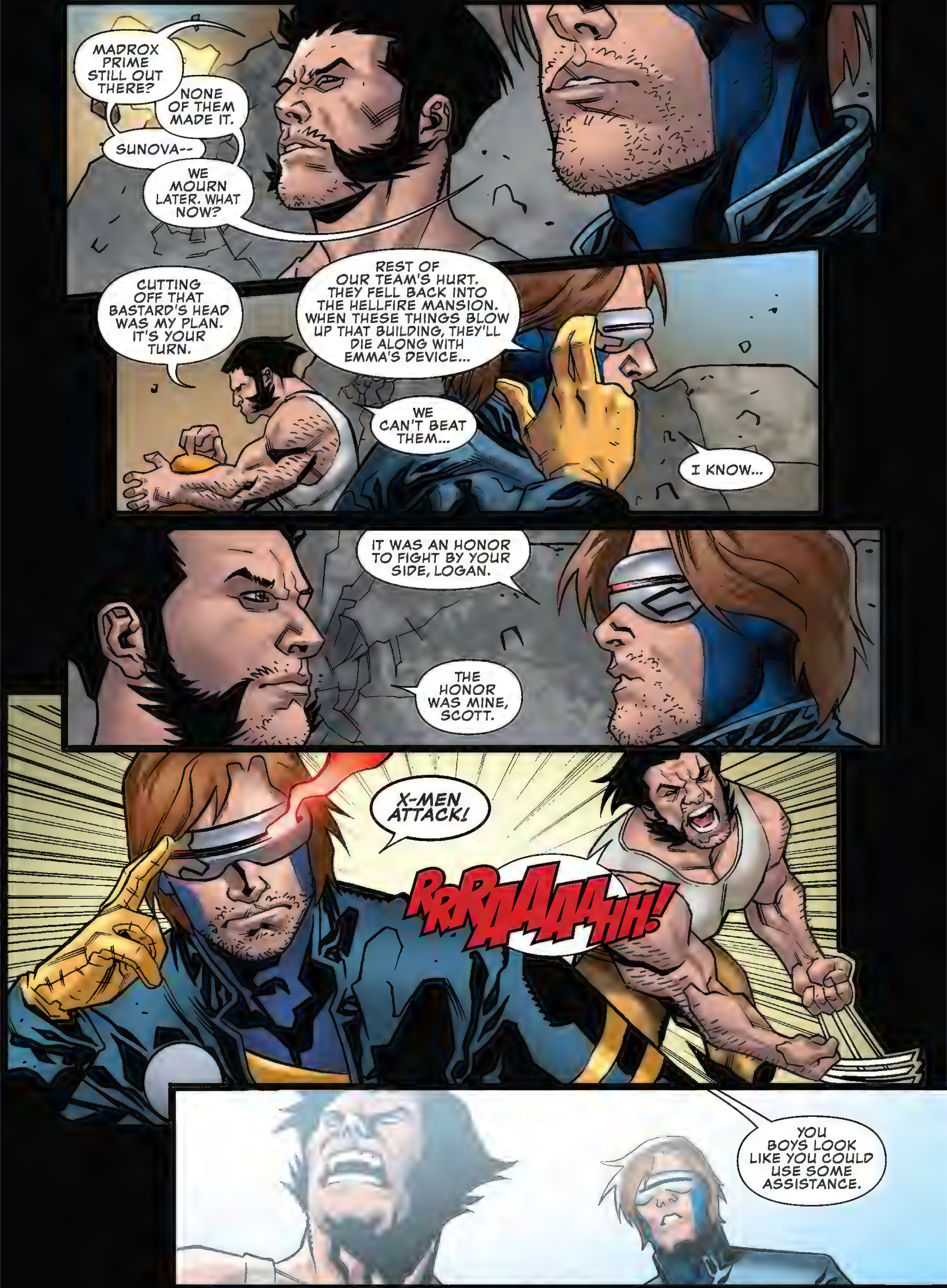
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! ATTACK THE TARGETS!
INDICATED TARGETS DO NOT MATCH KNOWN CRITERIA FOR USE OF FORCE.
THEY'RE MUTANTS! YOU KILL MUTANTS!
TERM "MUTANT" NOT KNOWN TO SELF.
OVERRIDE PRIORITY X-RAY ALPHA VICTORY INDIA ECHO ROMEO.
OVERRIDE ACCEPTED.
KILL ALL TARGETS I INDICATE.
AHH!
RAAAAHH!
KRAK

SORRY I'M LATE.
SCOTT! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK. THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. CALLAHAN WON'T STOP UNTIL HE'S DESTROYED US ALL AND THE CEREBRO--
SHUT UP, EMMA. PATCH ME THROUGH TO LOGAN.
LOGAN, WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
IT'S #$%&. WARLOX AND CORTEZ ARE GONE. EVERYONE ELSE IS HURT.
YOU SEE A WAY OUT OF THIS?
GET HER!
NOT UNLESS YOU GOT A TELEPORTER HIDDEN UP YOUR #$%&, SLIM.

WARLOX MADE THE SENTINELS FORGET MUTANTS SOMEHOW, BUT CALLAHAN'S STILL CONTROLLING THEM.
SO IF WE STOP HIM, WE STOP THEM.
NO. THEY'LL STILL BE LOCKED ON US EVEN IF WE COULD GET TO HIM. I DON'T SEE A WAY OUT HERE.
BUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF MUTANTS DIES WITH HIM.
AND WITH US.
NOT FOR THE ONES STILL OUT THERE.
I DON'T HAVE A SHOT.
I CAN'T GET TO HIM, SLIM. TOO MANY SENTINELS. I'D BE MOWED DOWN BEFORE I COVERED HALF THE DISTANCE.
I CAN GET YOU THERE.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, JAMIE?
NOT REALLY. BUT THIS IS THE MOMENT, RIGHT? WHERE YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF?
YEAH. THIS IS IT.
LOGAN? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN GET THERE. IT AIN'T GONNA BE FREE, BUT I CAN DO IT. YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO IT MY WAY?
IF HE WALKS AWAY FROM THIS AND WE DON'T, IT'S THE END OF ALL MUTANTS.
FROST, TELL EVERYONE TO COVER US ON THREE. ONE...TWO...

THREE!
AHHHH!
RRAAAAH!
STOP HIM!

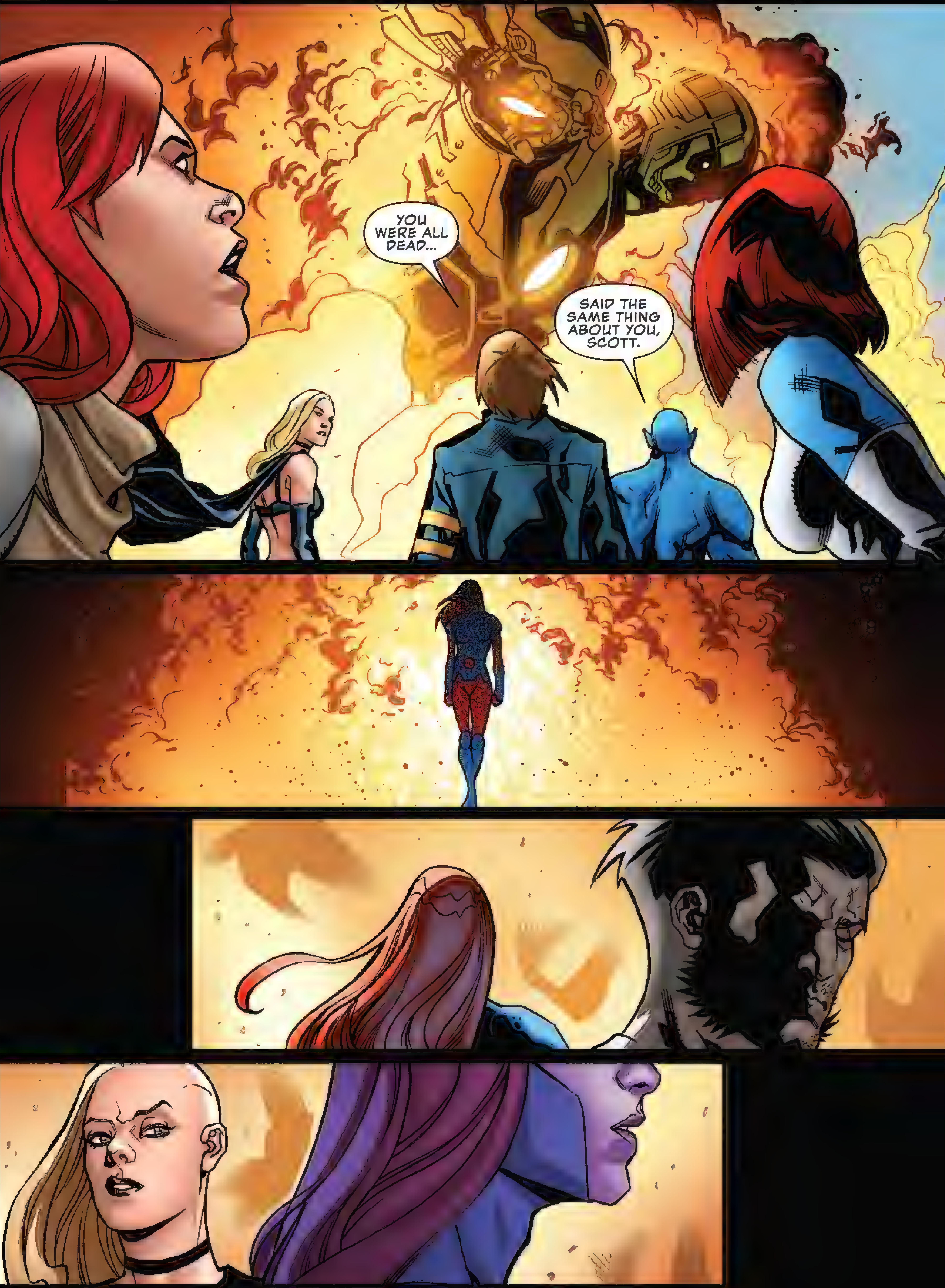

FORGET MADROX! ALL SENTINELS FIRE ON WOLVERINE!
STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM--
SHRUMP


MADROX PRIME STILL OUT THERE?
NONE OF THEM MADE IT.
SUNOVA--
WE MOURN LATER. WHAT NOW?
CUTTING OFF THAT BASTARD'S HEAD WAS MY PLAN. IT'S YOUR TURN.
REST OF OUR TEAM'S HURT. THEY FELL BACK INTO THE HELLFIRE MANSION. WHEN THESE THINGS BLOW UP THAT BUILDING, THEY'LL DIE ALONG WITH EMMA'S DEVICE...
WE CAN'T BEAT THEM...
I KNOW...
IT WAS AN HONOR TO FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE, LOGAN.
THE HONOR WAS MINE, SCOTT.
X-MEN ATTACK!
RRRAAAAHH!
YOU BOYS LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME ASSISTANCE.

TO ME, MY X-MEN!
IT CAN'T BE...

WHOOOOSH
CRUUUNCH
BOOM
KATHOOM

BUT... THEY'RE ALL GONE...
C'MON! WE HAVE TO GET OUT THERE AND HELP THEM!
JUDGING BY YOUR BATTLE-SCARRED APPEARANCE, I'D OFFER THAT YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH ALREADY, *MEIN KUMPEL.*
ELF? KITTY? THAT REALLY YOU?
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE.


YOU WERE ALL DEAD...
SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU, SCOTT.

LET ME LOOK AT YOU.
NO, IT'S--
TRUST ME. I WON'T LET YOU HURT ME.
OH, SCOTT. WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
HOW DID YOU FIND US? HOW DID YOU COME BACK?
NATE CREATED ANOTHER WORLD. HE MADE IT FOR MUTANTS, FOR US. BUT IT FELL APART. ALL OF US WERE THERE...EVEN DANI, SOMEHOW.
YOU KNEW THEY WERE ALIVE?
I DID NOT. BUT I KNEW I WOULD SEE THEM AGAIN. JUST AS I KNOW WE WILL SEE ALL THE OTHERS AGAIN SOMEDAY.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHERE IS MY SISTER?
WHERE'S ALEX?
I DIDN'T KNOW.
SCOTT, WHAT HAPPENED?
I THOUGHT I LISTENED TO HER. BLINDFOLD SAID EVERYONE WAS DEAD... SHE DIDN'T MEAN YOU... SHE MEANT US... *THIS* IS *FOREVER* FOR US.

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO POINT OUT THAT THE MEDIA AND POLICE ARE HERE.
I CAN KEEP THEM AT BAY WHILE WE...
NYPD
THEY DON'T...THEY DON'T SEE US? OR NOT REALLY...
THEY NO LONGER KNOW WE EXIST. TO THEM WE ARE JUST SIMPLE HUMANS, THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE.
YOU ERASED US?!
I GAVE US ALL A CHANCE TO START OVER. ALL OF US. WE COULD JUST DISAPPEAR. FOREVER.
IT'S OUR CHANCE TO FIND HAPPINESS.
ALL OF THIS WAS TO GET TO HERE? ALL OF THE DEATH? ALL OF THE FIGHTING?
SO WE COULD HAVE A FUTURE.
...A FUTURE IN HIDING.

ALL THIS AND YOU DIDN'T MAKE THEM NOT HATE US. YOU DIDN'T TAKE AWAY THEIR HATRED. YOU JUST MADE US HIDE WHO WE ARE.
AFTER ALL THIS, WE STILL HAVE TO HIDE?
IT GIVES US A CHANCE TO SURVIVE.
I CAN'T TAKE THE IDEA OF US HIDING ANYMORE. WE DESERVE TO LET THE WORLD KNOW WHO WE REALLY ARE. THEY DESERVE TO KNOW WHAT WE LOST HERE.
BUT THAT CAN'T BE JUST MY CHOICE.
WE COULD WALK AWAY NOW AND THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER KNOW WE EVER EXISTED. THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT WE FACED AND WHAT WE LIVED THROUGH.
BUT I SAY WE STOP HIDING AND STAND PROUD, COME WHAT MAY.
WHO'S WITH ME?
WE'RE WITH YOU, SCOTT.

I THOUGHT THE X-MEN WERE OVER. THERE WASN'T GOING TO BE ANYONE LEFT TO PROTECT THE NEXT GENERATION.
AND IF YOU DESTROY IT NOW, AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED?
THEY'LL DECLARE WAR ON US.
ZARK
WHAT THE...
HOLY HELL!
IT'S...THE X-MEN!
WHERE THE HELL DID THEY COME FROM?
NOW I KNOW, LOGAN...

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AT WAR.
END.

This is forever.

The X-Men have been with me as long as I can remember. It started with stealing copies of UNCANNY X-MEN from my brother's room when he would go out. The X-Men became a part of me. They were such a powerful concept to my young mind. An idea I felt like I'd always needed. That idea became an obsession. From there it was saving all my money to get back issues he had missed at Big Apple Comics. Then on to begging my parents for a subscription of my own, to hoarding spare change to play *X-Men: The Arcade Game* at the movie theater, to collecting toys, to cartoons, to movies... And on to this — writing this farewell letter in my last issue of UNCANNY X-MEN.

Cyclops says early in issue #11 that this is "the last X-Men story." The dream of the X-Men is ending. They are dying. Their future is vanishing before them. The X-Men will be gone from this world soon. It's a part of the X-Men that I have always loved. The willingness to fight back against all odds, the belief that some things are worth sacrificing everything for, the desire to stand up for what is right even when you can't win. A writer more prone to self-analysis might also say that I was writing my own fears at this point. I was beginning to end my time writing the X-Men and that terrified me. I was saying goodbye to the X-Men, but I was going to go out with a bang.

But as the story goes on it evolves, as things often do. Scott's voice gives way to Emma's. His fears give way to her hope. "The last X-Men story" is no longer a eulogy; it's a promise. While Scott can only see a world where the X-Men must fight to the last, Emma pictures a world where the X-Men are no longer needed. Again, this is a part of the X-Men that I've always loved. The ability to find hope in the darkest of times, the intelligence to know you can make a difference and the courage to make the world into the one you want to live in. She isn't planning a funeral; she's planning to have a future beyond the X-Men. And again, maybe so was I.

But I had a book to write. And on this book I was lucky enough to work with some of the most talented, kind and passionate people I've ever met. Salvador Larroca helped define so many of these characters for me throughout my life, and he redefined them again now. Guru-eFX helped bring them to life, as did the amazing Rachelle Rosenberg. Joe Carmagna gave them voices. The legendary Whilce Portacio blessed us with covers that we worked hard to deserve. David Messina, Carlos Gómez, Carlos Villa, Bob Quinn, Juan Velasco, Adriano Di Benedetto and Michelle Delecki all made the story bigger and better than I could have imagined. And of course Jordan D. White, Chris Robinson and C.B. Cebulski kept us on track and picked us up when we stumbled. I couldn't ask to be a part of a better team.

But here we are. This is the last issue of X-Men I'm writing (just for now, I hope). My "last X-men story" started with me reading on the floor of my bedroom so many years ago, but that's not where it really began. It started in 1963 with Stan and Jack and an idea. And it will continue well after me, of course. So many exciting new X-Men stories lie ahead, starting with Jonathan, R.B., Pepe, Marte and beyond. When I finish writing this I get to once again read these books as just a fan, and I couldn't be more excited. Because what I love most about the X-Men is more than just the stories and the characters, the themes or concepts. The X-Men is bigger than all those pieces. And while I say farewell and thank you to all the readers and fans who gave us a chance, we don't ever really say goodbye to the X-Men. The X-Men is an idea. The X-Men is a part of us. The X-Men is forever.

Matthew Rosenberg
New York City. 6/14/19

MARVELS
SUE STORM'S BRIDAL SHOWER
CAPTAIN AMERICA VISITS THE WHITE HOUSE
JANET VAN DYNE TALKS ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD
WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN WESTCHESTER?
PROF. CHARLES XAVIER AND STUDENTS FROM HIS SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
noto

#19 MARVELS 25TH TRIBUTE VARIANT COVER BY **PHIL NOTO**

#21 CARNAGE-IZED VARIANT COVER BY **DECLAN SHALVEY**

#22 CARNAGE-IZED VARIANT COVER BY **JAY ANACLETO** & **RAIN BEREDO**

"*Uncanny X-Men* ***is a book that will floor you.***"
—All-Comic

THESE ARE DARK TIMES

AND THEY'RE GETTING DARKER BY THE DAY.

WITH THE X-MEN VANISHED AND PRESUMED DEAD, Cyclops' new team has only just come together – but now they're about to lose one of their own! Elsewhere, the new Black King of the Hellfire Club makes her move! But what is the truth about the club's involvement in the new X-Men's current quest? Meanwhile, the mutant race faces elimination at the hands of a vaccine that will erase the X-Gene from future generations. As Cyclops' cleanup mission nears its close, all the problems the X-Men have faced will come together! The Hellfire Club's sinister plans, the culmination of the O.N.E.'s assaults on mutantkind and even the inner struggles within the team. It all ends here. This is forever!

T+

COLLECTING ***UNCANNY X-MEN* (2018) #17-22** – BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG,
CARLOS GÓMEZ, CARLOS VILLA, BOB QUINN, SALVADOR LARROCA, DAVID MESSINA,
CRAIG YEUNG, JUAN VLASCO, ADRIANO DI BENEDETTO, MICHELLE DELECKI AND GURU-eFX.